

# BEIJING TODAY

北京青年报

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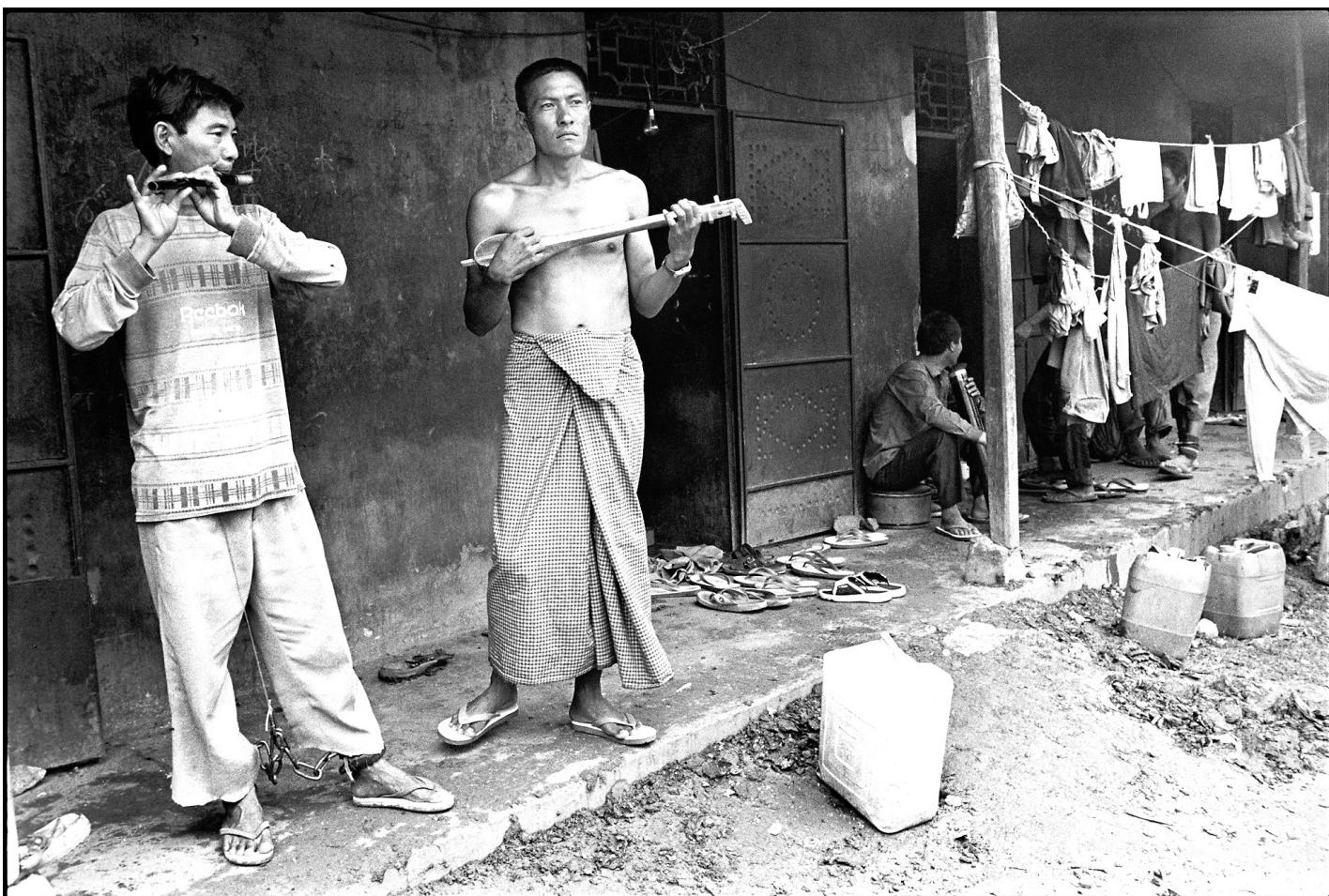
Masters and  
descendants

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## Illuminating the hidden

**Lu Nan creates documentaries like none other. His work focuses on people who exist outside the mainstream, or who have slipped through its cracks. In his 20 years as a photographer, he has lived a simple, almost monastic life.**

In 2006, Lu went to the most dangerous area in Myanmar to get involved in the lives of imprisoned drug dealers and addicts, and to document their daily lives. The photos Lu took in Myanmar appear in his latest exhibition, "Prison Camps in Northern Myanmar," now on display at Inter Art Center in 798 Art District. See Lu's story on Pages 12-13.



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BEIJING'S SPORTS PUB  
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# HIV patients extended access to insurance

By Jin Zhu

Li Wei, an AIDS patient who lost the country's first discrimination case against a domestic insurance company last month, may have new ammunition for his appeal.

Insurance companies are required to abolish discriminatory contracts targeting HIV/AIDS carriers, according to a new document issued by the Insurance Association of China.

According to "Specimen Life Insurance Products," no insur-

ance company may exclude HIV/AIDS virus carriers and patients or passive drug users from their due obligations. The companies must revise their contracts before October 1.

Li, 32, from Yunnan Province, purchased personal accident insurance from Ping'an Life Insurance last February. He later noticed that HIV/AIDS conditions were among its exemptions, together with things like war, military operations, riots, armed rebellions and nuclear radiation.

"There is no relationship between being HIV-positive and getting in an accident. Medical compensation for incidents such as traffic accidents should not be linked to a person's HIV/AIDS status," Tang Rong, Li's lawyer, said. He pointed out that such discriminatory clauses can be found in the personal accident insurance contracts of almost every company.

"There is no doubt that the latest document will help him to win the case, and as a lawyer spe-

cializing in insurance claims, I will be closely watching Ping'an and other insurance companies to see whether they follow the new rules in October," Tang said.

"The release of this document means that China's 700,000 people living with HIV/AIDS will receive benefits, and it is a symbol of increasing understanding for this widely known chronic infectious disease among the insurance industry," said Jenny Xia, manager of the Asian Pacific Council of AIDS Service Organizations.

The government still needs to pass legislation to end HIV/AIDS-related discrimination in all areas including insurance, education, employment and medical care, she said.

Besides the inclusion of HIV/AIDS status, more specific rulings on items listed in the liability exemption clause, such as drunk driving and driving without a license, have been added to the new document to restrict compensation clauses used in the insurance industry.

## Businesses' charitable donations still insufficient

By Wang Dong

Fewer than 100,000 enterprises among 10 million have ever donated to a charity, according to the China Corporate Citizenship Report 2009, published July 12.

The report, prepared by the China Institute for Development and Reform, shows that charitable donations total 5 billion yuan per year, or 0.5 percent of the gross domestic product (GDP).

The US, by contrast, sees donations equal to 8 to 9 percent of its GDP.

"There are still too few charities in China, and even fewer qualified ones," Zou Dongtao, executive editor of the report, said. "Many charity organizations are inefficient and do not make their operations or accounting open. Corporations, consequently, have little faith in them."

A volunteer at the Little Angel Foundation, a charity organization that helps children with leukemia and is joined to the China Red Cross Foundation, was accused of embezzling charity money, media reported early this May.

"Donations have fallen off," said one staff member at the foundation.

The exposé also delivered a blow to many other organizations which are having a hard time with credibility, Zou said.

But most seriously, lack of charity awareness and culture where the self is paramount are toxic to donation revenue, he said.

"Even last year, assuming we include the donations for the Sichuan earthquake, there was only 107 billion yuan in donations: less than the US' number three charity earns alone," said Liu Youping, vice director of the China Charity Information Center.

"But tax policy is more favorable to charity than ever," Liu said. According to the Corporate Income Tax Law adopted by the National People's Congress on January 1, 2008, businesses' charitable donations equal to 12 percent or less of their total annual earnings can be tax-exempt. Under the old law, the limit was 3 percent.

"The numbers of businesses making donations has increased, and I believe that the situation is getting better," Liu said.

## China, Russia train together to fight terror



Chinese and Russian armed forces are participating in joint anti-terror military exercises at a venue in Jilin Province. About 1,300 troops from the People's Liberation Army (PLA) and 1,300 Russian troops are preparing for the five-day exercise, code-named "Peace Mission-2009", scheduled from July 22.

CFP Photo

## Gov intervenes in electroshock for Internet addicts

By Han Manman

The Ministry of Health ordered a halt to the controversial use of electroshock to treat young Internet addicts, saying there was no scientific evidence to show it worked.

The halt comes after media exposed a clinic in Shandong Province that was treating nearly 3,000 teenagers for Internet addiction using electroshock. Yang Yongxin, a doctor at the clinic, delivered pulses of 1-5 millamps to the heads of his young patients calling the procedure a non-damaging "therapy to clear the mind."

The ministry said it invited experts to study the electroshock therapy. All experts agreed the

safety and effectiveness were at best uncertain, and that electroshock was not appropriate for such clinical use.

Kong Lingzhong, editor of a domestic Internet addict-themed portal, told the *Beijing News* a fierce debate continues over the appropriateness of electroshock.

"We have no clue whether this freaky treatment has side-effects," Kong said.

Yang Yongxin could not be reached for comment as of Thursday, but Yang Shuyun, a spokesman for the hospital, said it stopped administering shock therapy after it received the ministry's decision.

She emphasized that the hos-

pital's program was not limited to electroshock, and that it included important medical and psychological elements including medicine and counseling.

Electric shock therapy was once used to treat severe depression and psychiatric disorders, the ministry's psychiatrists said. Yang Yongxin, dubbed "a national Web-addiction expert" by addicts' families, was the first to extend its use to treat Internet addiction.

The shocks, although painful, do not affect the brain or damage the body, Yang Yongxin said.

Details of the treatment went public when former patients wrote about their experiences online.

Shocks were delivered if

young patients broke any of the center's 86 rules drafted by Yang Yongxin, which included prohibitions on eating chocolate, locking the bathroom door and taking pills before a meal.

Internet addiction is a growing problem in the country, which now has almost 300 million Internet users. Many adolescents spend several hours each day playing online computer games.

Psychologists say symptoms of Internet addiction include being online more than six hours a day, playing games or looking at pornography rather than working or studying and becoming angry when Internet access is unavailable.

# Shanghai plans replica of Neverland Ranch

By Jin Zhu

Shanghai may become the next Graceland for Michael Jackson's Chinese fans.

A group of businessmen from Zhejiang Province have announced plans to build a small replica of his Neverland Ranch outside the city.

According to the announcement, Shanghai's mini Neverland Ranch would be located on Chongming Island, off the eastern coast of Shanghai and an hour's drive from the city.

Although the new Neverland would be only a seventeenth of the original's size, the park will have

the same layout, complete with a farm and equestrian park.

The project would be completed in three phases with a total investment of 100 million yuan. "The first phase of the project is to build the main body of the mini ranch, which will be 200 mu (133,330 square meters) and may be completed as early as next year," Wu Pei, a spokeswoman for the project, said.

The real ranch, located in California, has an amusement park, a zoo, lakes, a movie theater and an Indian village. Jackson lived at it from 1998 until a police investigation

into accusations of child molestation in 2005. He moved out shortly after, believing the ranch to have been "violated."

As one of the four investors, Qiu Xuefan, director of the Wenzhou Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai said he believed it would be a good idea to build such a place for Chinese fans to remember the late King of Pop.

"All of us are his faithful fans. I was born in 1971 and was fascinated with his music since I was still in high school," Qiu said.

The businessmen have also contacted Jackson's estate about

buying memorabilia. According to the preliminary plan, 10 of his possessions, including the glove he wore in his performances, will be bought for 1 million yuan.

"It (the mini ranch) would be very much like the original one with Michael's possessions on display and would become a special place for Chinese fans to commemorate him when completed," he said.

Wu said the ranch would include "Chinese characteristics" to make it blend in with the local environment.

A farm with an equestrian park and a Shanghai-style country club

will be built in the second and third phases, she said.

However, the timing of the project has been criticized as many fans continue to mourn the former star.

"I doubted that there would be enough commercial interest since it will become a tourist spot according to the plan, instead of simply a place to commemorate (Michael Jackson)," Zhou Ying, a fan in Shanghai said.

"Since Michael opened his ranch to the children for free, the park should also be free, at least to children, if its purpose is really tribute," she said.



Subway beggars are hard for the company to disperse.

CFP Photo

## Beggars pour into subway as temps peak

Beggars have been flooding subway tunnels to escape the summer heat, but Beijing Subway Corporation said it cannot evict them.

Xiao Feng, a beggar sitting on the floor of Subway Line 1, moves forward with his hands. He revealed that most beggars live in the suburbs west of Pingguoyuan, the western terminal of line 1. They organize into gangs by province, and the gang leader is put in charge of bringing in children to assist in begging.

Children are leased, not bought or sold, from the leader's hometown and rotated out at regular intervals.

Each gang claims a different stretch of subway to avoid turf wars. Leaders get the most begging time at any site.

Most beggars work on

lines 1, 2 and 5, the most crowded of Beijing's rails. However, they do not beg during morning and evening rush hours.

Subway workers at Chongwenmen station said the beggars continue to elude police and security guard patrols using their knowledge of the station's layout and the distribution of its security personnel.

The beggars go on vacation during the May Day and Spring Festival holidays, when the subway company steps up its inspection.

Beggars who board the subway flaunt any disability, sing about their miserable experiences and tug on the passengers' coats.

Some beggars sing to popular music which reflects the warmth of humanity. "Begging is an art," Lao Li, a beggar from Sichuan Province said proudly.

Although the management of the subway department issued regulations banning begging in the subway, staff said enforcement is hardly possible. The beggars purchase tickets to enter the subway like normal passengers. Subway rules do not provide for a way to evict ticketholders.

Management said that without legal backing, the most they can do is shoo the beggars away. But some passengers have accused the management of being immoral and cold-blooded, which has made many reluctant to take a strong stand.

Jia Peng, the press spokesman of the subway department, said the company will continue looking for ways to break up the begging gangs. If the beggars resist, they will be sent to the social aid center.

(By Chen Zao)

## Transsexual entertainer Han seeks love online

By Mang Mingxuan

Han Bingbing, China's first transsexual entertainer, announced recently in her blog that she is after romance. Although her past three relationships were all with northerners, this time Han is open to romance around the world.

Han was born as a male in a small town by Daxing Anling Forest. Her original name was Xuan Xiaoman, and from an early age she felt her soul was at odds with her body – a conflict resolved by her sex reassignment surgery in 1999.

Ten years later, Han is a mature woman successful in the fashion business, econom-

ically independent, confident and beautiful. She is preparing for the release of her autobiographical film *Bride in the Snowfield*.

But life with her adopted 2-year-old daughter is lacking. Han wants a husband to care for and love her, and with whom to share joy and sadness. She once tried to seek love through the same channels as born women, but things became awkward when her transsexual identity was recognized.

"I'd rather make myself clear and understood through the Internet than hide," she says. In her announcement, Han traces through years of pressure and

her anxious anticipation for the future. "Telling my story in writing would be easier for the public to read and digest than if I told it face-to-face," Han says.

She says she is looking for a groom who is independent, supportive, well educated and, most importantly, kind-hearted and considerate. She wants her daughter Xuanxuan to grow up in a good home.

She has already received many emails and instant messages on QQ from around the country.

Her suitors come from all walks of life, including young grads, engineers and agricultural workers. But she says none were close to offering a spark. "It

is amazing that so many people think I'm lucky that anyone would want me, and that I should just be so thankful and cherish him heart and soul. Nobody sees that I am a successful woman with my own business. Why shouldn't I receive an equal amount of respect and find an equally successful man?" she says.

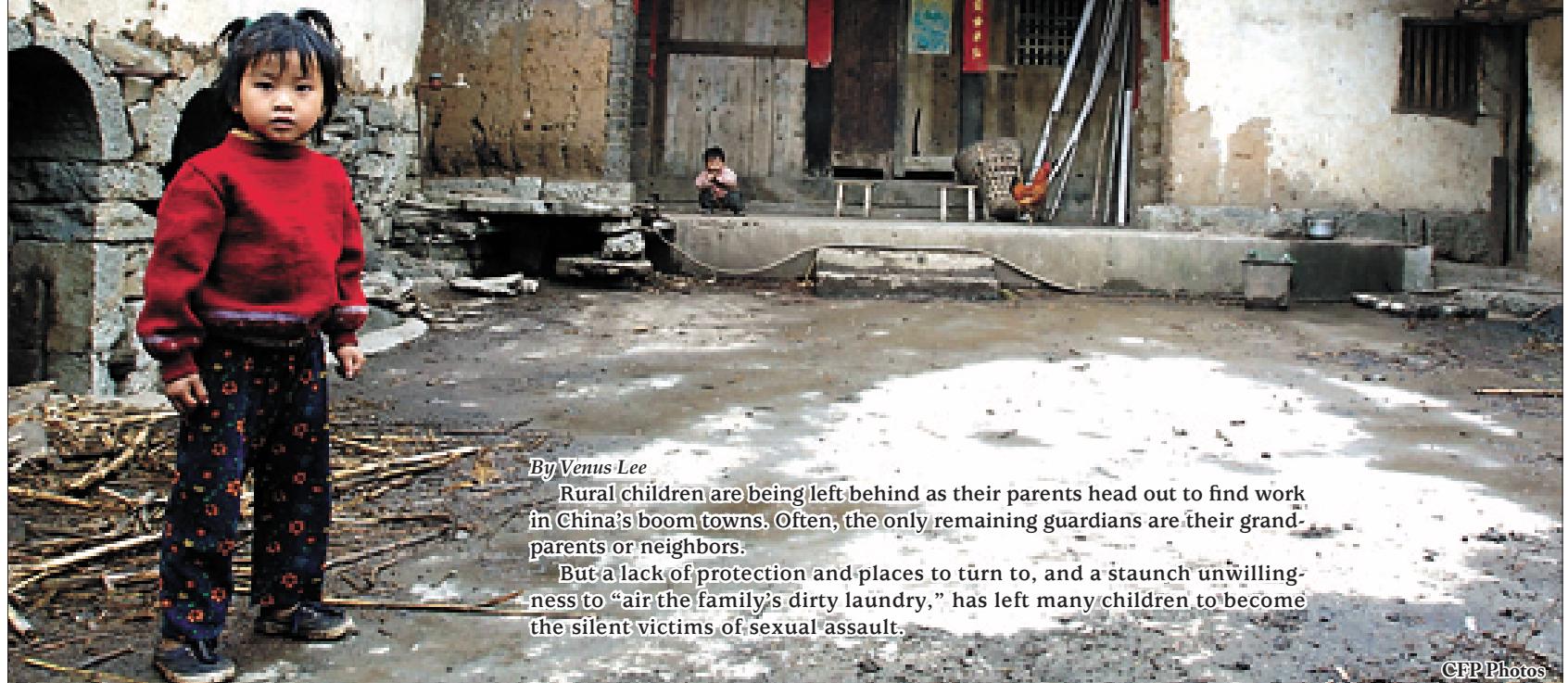
Han says she is waiting for true love and will not rush into marriage.

As a garment business owner, Han expects to design her own wedding dress when the day comes, and will put her wedding photos on her blog to share the joy with friends online.



Han Bingbing  
Photo provided by Han Bingbing

# Protecting the girls left behind



By Venus Lee

Rural children are being left behind as their parents head out to find work in China's boom towns. Often, the only remaining guardians are their grandparents or neighbors.

But a lack of protection and places to turn to, and a staunch unwillingness to "air the family's dirty laundry," has left many children to become the silent victims of sexual assault.

CFP Photos

## Girls frequent abuse targets

A 4-year-old girl was found dead near an abandoned construction site in Banba Village, Hechi, Jiangxi Province in March. A man, 52, living next door to the girl's family was arrested of murdering her.

During the post-mortem exam, local police found the girl was repeatedly raped before being strangled by her assailant.

Police said the girl lived with her grandpa, and that her parents had gone to Guangdong Province to find work.

"Villagers here are used to children dropping in on their neighbors. No one imagined a neighbor could have done something so gruesome," Bai Hongying, deputy captain of the criminal investigation department of Hechi Police, said.

But the murder was the strange part.

It is hardly uncommon that rural girls left behind fall prey to sexual predators.

In May, a 14-year-old was raped by three fifty-some men in Xinmi, Henan Province. Only a month earlier, 10 girls were sexually assaulted by their teachers in Xishui County, Guizhou Province.

In February, another 12-year-old girl was raped several times by her 69-year-old neighbor in Shangrao, Jiangxi Province. The assailants have confessed fully to the delinquent account and have been detained on criminal charge.

There were more than 300 cases of child sexual abuse in Guangdong Province last year – counting only the reported cases.

## Lack of real guardians

The problems begin with children being left to unfit guardians.

"The victims are usually 5 to 12 years old. They are not street-wise and lack the ability to protect themselves. Some confuse sexual assault with a game and never realize they are in danger. The abusers take full advantage of a child's innocence," Wu Zhiping, director of Rural Women's Development Center, said.

Without the watchful eye of a parent, it is easy for a predator to close in. She said most victimized children are left with their grandparents, who are old and forgetful.

"This is compounded by the grandparents' limited education. They think caring for a child is as simple as feeding him," she said. Issues like safety and keeping children away from predators never enter the picture. If they do, grand-

parents pass the buck to the school.

But few rural primary and middle schools have programs to teach sexual education or personal safety.

Children left with distant relatives, friends and neighbors are worse off.

According to an analysis of 340 cases of child sexual abuse heard by the Beijing Juvenile Legal Aid Service and Research Center (BJLC), in 68 percent of the cases, the abuser was someone the parents trusted.

"The abuser was often identified as a stepfather and temporary guardian, like an uncle, neighbor or teacher," Zhang Xuemei, a researcher at the center, said.

Traditional thinking demands that a family's ugly secrets be hidden. Many victims are embarrassed and will not reveal what

happened to their parents or guardians, and some parents choose to bury the incident rather than report it to the police – to safeguard the girl's "honor."

"Girls suffer sexual abuse for years before the family or police learn of it. Their unwillingness to come forward hampers police efforts to collect evidence and charge a suspect. In the end, the guilty party usually walks," Bai said.

Geographical conditions make young girls especially easy targets. Many girls are left alone outside to take care of chores, such as cutting the grass, herding sheep or grazing cattle.

## No substitute for parents

Twenty-one percent of parents contact their children by telephone once a week and 34 percent contact them once a month, according to statistics from the All-China Women's Federation.

Most parents return home only once a year. "Long-term separation from their parents causes

many children to become introverted, pessimistic, ill-tempered, aggressive, anxious, and scared," Wu said.

During her own survey from 2005 to 2008, she met Liu Yan, a 10-year-old girl in Lianyuan, Hunan Province. The girl was stopped several times by her

teacher when she began cutting her arms with a small knife. The teacher learned why the girl was cutting herself only when she read the last sentence in her workbook: "If my hand is broke, mom will come to see me. Last time she came it was because my hand was broke. She brought me lots of tasty

snacks. I am cutting my hand. I miss mom."

"Children separated from their parents at an early age need a lot of love. When I ask them what they want, most only answer: My parents. Getting to be with their parents is the biggest luxury many of them can imagine," she said.

## Improving child security

According to the "Study Report on Situation of Left-behind Children in Rural Areas in China in 2008," published by the All-China Women's Federation, there were 58 million children in rural areas, 40 million of whom were younger than 14.

Parents with a son take the boy with them to the city; those with a daughter leave her behind.

The issue is a top concern for the government, which Zhang said has cooperated with countryside schools to improve sex education and protection. Schools now use the holiday break to lecture guardians about the risk of sexual abuse.

"Compared with the situation three years ago, the environment for these children has changed. But there is only so much the government can do," Wu said.

NGO efforts are a welcome supplement to government programs. The NGO Rural Women's Development Center carried out its own education project to offer children basic sexual education and promote awareness through interesting activities. It also provides shelters for victims, legal aid and psychological counseling.

Gu Shenzu, president of the College of Strategic Management at Wuhan University, suggested the government do more than teach safety. "The government can encourage and create more opportunities for migrant workers to find jobs in their hometowns. They could also try to resolve the education problems their children face in cities," he said. "This would not only enhance local economic development, but also help take care of the children."



Many children are left with their grandparents.

# China seeks to dominate world renewable energy industry?



Steven Chu, US energy secretary

Steven Chu, the American energy secretary, and Gary Locke, the commerce secretary, came to discuss clean energy and global warming with Chinese leaders, and to see if progress can be made to get China to agree to caps on its greenhouse gas emissions. Agreement proved elusive during the Group 8 Summit in Italy last week.

Chu and Locke arrived as Western companies, especially Europeans, are complaining about the government's green protectionism.

China has built the world's largest solar panel manufacturing industry by exporting 95 percent of its output. But when China authorized its first solar power plant this spring, it required that at least 80 percent of the equipment be made in China.

When the Chinese government took bids this spring for 25 large contracts to supply wind turbines, every contract was won by one of seven domestic companies. All six multinationals that submitted bids were disqualified on various technical grounds, like not providing sufficiently detailed data.

The Chinese government banned installation of wind tur-

When the US top energy and commerce officials arrived in Beijing on Tuesday, they landed in the middle of a building storm over China's tactics to become the world leader in renewable energy.

Calling renewable energy a strategic industry, the country is trying hard to make sure its companies dominate globally. Just as Japan and South Korea made it hard for US automakers to compete in those countries – giving their own automakers time to amass economies of scale in sheltered domestic markets – China is shielding its clean energy sector while it grows to a point where it can take on the world.



Reports say China is planning a 3-trillion-yuan investment for green energy development in the next 10 years, which will provide great opportunities for foreign companies.

CFP Photos

bines with a capacity of less than 1,000 kilowatts – which excluded 850-kilowatt designs, a popular size of European manufacturers.

This year, China passed the US as the world's largest market for wind energy. It is now building six wind farms with a capacity of 10,000 to 20,000 megawatts apiece, using extensive low-interest loans from the state-owned commercial banks.

Some foreign companies, particularly European businesses, are

starting to express misgivings about China's promotion of the local manufacturers.

European wind turbine makers have stopped even bidding for some Chinese contracts after concluding that their bids would not be seriously considered, said Jorg Wuttke, president of the European Union Chamber of Commerce in China.

European turbine manufacturers are especially disappointed because they built factories in China to comply with the requirement

that turbines contain 70 percent local content, Wuttke said.

European solar power companies are also unhappy. "This is not a level playing field," said Boris Klebensberger, COO of Germany-based SolarWorld AG.

Wuttke said last week he was encouraged that Premier Wen Jiabao told German Chancellor Angela Merkel in a telephone call on June 25 that China would not discriminate against foreign enterprises, according to Xinhua



Gary Locke, US commerce secretary

News Agency.

But no new Chinese renewable energy regulations have been issued since then on local content requirements or other rules.

Financial regulations for wind farms also make it harder for foreign-owned farms to borrow money or to sell carbon credits. Even well-connected international funds like Nature Elements Capital have to look hard for projects, while less-connected funds have struggled to find any at all.

US companies play a smaller role in the global renewable energy industry, but some of them are also growing exasperated with the Chinese market. "That has been a tough market for non-Chinese manufacturers," said Victor Abate, General Electric's vice president for wind energy.

Kevin Griffis, a US Commerce Department spokesman, said that the agency had not heard from American companies about difficulties in the Chinese market.

"Generally speaking," Griffis said, "we support a business environment that is open, transparent and fair."

(Agencies)



Wind energy, solar energy and the clean use of natural gas, are the major fields China is expected to develop. But China wants more technologies in these fields.

We understand Obama's intention to lead in the fight against global warming, and link this effort to fixing the US economy, security and international image.

Obviously, Obama's government intends to make green energy

## Domestic media reports:

*the next engine to accelerate the US economy's recovery and increase its prospects.*

*The US and China should join hands, as we all have our own technical advantages and products. All the parties should pledge their sincerity and offer cutting-edge technologies and products.*

– Xinhua News Agency

*The two countries agreed to discuss building a Sino-US clean energy center in China. It will be the first national-level center between China and the US to promote the use of clean energy.*

*China and the US both face "great challenges and opportunities in clean energy use," said Dennis Bracy, CEO of the US-China Clean Energy Forum. "The two countries have much to gain by working together."*

– People's Daily

*The US and China have a long history of cooperation in green energy, but most of the projects are*

*confined to frameworks and agreements. We need to take action. We believe this time, the visit by the two secretaries will push the process to a more practical phase.*

*The US has the new technologies, while China has the low-manufacturing costs and huge market. We have no reason to decline cooperation. China wants and is willing to pay for technology. Bargaining on selling products in China is not helpful. We expect the US government to encourage its companies to share its relevant technologies.*

*China does not want to follow other countries' technologies. It wants to develop new standards and products based on other technologies, such as the "smart grid." We hope the two sides can reach an agreement in this area.*

*Overall, China is not the country of 20 years ago which bought everything that was offered. We've become more clever and stronger.*

– Economic Review Daily

(By Zhao Hongyi)

## Experts' view:

*China is willing to invest in renewable energy because it helps the Chinese economy.*

*The Chinese government won't consider such a big solar industry without considering the building up of the domestic industry. It will also help address global warming.*

– Lu Hong, officer, Energy Foundation

*The two secretaries (Chu and Locke) are heading in the right direction for cooperation since they are trying to find ways to sell more clean energy technologies to China, rather than just the products.*

*You should sell the things that the buyers want. Complaints do not solve problems.*

– Han Xiaoping, CIO, chinage.com

*The US informed China it will levy "carbon tariffs" on imports from China. It is*

*another type of trade protectionism, which will bring negative effects on the world trade order and lead to trade wars. We strongly oppose it.*

– Yao Jian, spokesman, Ministry of Commerce

*Chinese companies will increase their share at home by 10 or 20 percentage points this year. That will give them almost three-quarters of the domestic market – the reverse of the ratio four years ago.*

*You cannot exclude Chinese companies from getting a market share at home.*

*The point is that foreign companies, whether American or European, should provide the right products and technologies in order to grab a market share in China.*

– Zhou Heliang, president, China Technical Society  
(By Zhao Hongyi)

# Rio Tinto case strictly business, officials say

By Zhao Hongyi / Zhang Dongya

The Rio Tinto spy scandal is growing.

Insiders expect China will cancel the import licenses of 20 small- and medium-sized ore traders.

The 92 remaining enterprises would be forcibly "rebalanced."

Australian Prime Minister Kevin Rudd spoke to remind China that it has great interest in Australia as well. Rio Tinto withdrew its iron ore and steel workers, including market researchers, from China yesterday, AP reported.

# Rio Tinto

## Arrest strains bilateral relations

Stern Hu, Australia-based Rio Tinto's senior manager in charge of iron ore, was detained with three colleagues on July 5 in Shanghai.

Hu stands accused of bribing senior managers of Chinese iron mills for trade secrets during the six months of negotiation with China Iron and Steel Association (CISA). CISA was strong-arming Rio Tinto for a price cut.

The trade secrets included data of the national ore surplus, how long ore is stored, what the government pays to import ore, the production arrangements of every iron and steel mill, the percentage of iron extracted from ore and future purchasing plans

of the Chinese mills.

Hu's arrest sent shockwaves across the business scene and was immediately condemned by skeptical Australian groups.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* reported that the investigation is part of a realignment of how China manages its post financial-crisis economy: it alleges the realignment has bumped spy and security agencies to the highest strategy-making positions.

Australian opposition leader Malcolm Turnbull, who demanded Hu's release earlier in the week, said, "Stern Hu did nothing wrong. If he is not charged, then he should be released right away."

But current power-holders showed more restraint. Australian consular staff met Hu last Friday in Shanghai, saying Hu appeared well. Australia's trade and foreign ministers are waiting for more details though they appealed for the facts.

Initially, Prime Minister Kevin Rudd declined to push the government to reveal those details, saying Hu's arrest should not be politicized. That changed Thursday, when Rudd joined in the call for openness and release.

Some Western politicians said the arrest may scare potential foreign businessmen from doing business in China.

## Negotiations and espionage



Stern Hu at an industrial seminar (file).

China buys more Australian exports than any country besides Japan, having spent AU \$36 billion (198 billion yuan) in the 11 months prior to May 2009. Half of the purchases were iron ore.

Leading ore miners have constantly inflated their prices in the last six years, pre-

paring for China's increased demand. Last year, the average ore price was 4.6 times higher than its 2003 average.

Over the last six years, the country imported 683 billion yuan worth of ore as prices increased. These expenses were more than double the profits earned by steel mills.

When CISA renegotiated the iron ore price with Rio Tinto last year, CISA demanded a 45 percent drop from 2007 levels. Tinto refused, saying it can only provide 33 percent reduction which was already accepted by Japanese and South Korean companies.

Disgruntled, CISA threatened to halt iron imports from Australia and return to playing the world market.

Rio Tinto caved under

pressure, offering CISA a price 33 percent lower than it offered Japan and other buyers, but CISA insisted the offer remained too high.

During the capital-injection negotiations between Chinalco and Rio Tinto this year, Chinalco promised it a cash injection of 134 billion yuan. The world's second largest ore miner rejected the deal in early June, paying a 1.3 billion yuan "withdrawal penalty," and joining BHP Billiton, the world's largest mining company.

Rio Tinto is now claiming 61 billion yuan in damages from Chinese steel mills for the delayed or cancelled ore deliveries over the past year. BHP Billiton is also seeking unspecified damages, according to China's *21st Century Business Herald*.



Rio Tinto may be fined because of Stern Hu.

CFP Photos

## Determined to safeguard its interests

"Hu's case seriously damaged China's economic security and interests. It was an offense both to Chinese law and international business morals," *China Security Journal* said over the weekend.

"We have concrete evidence which shows Hu and his colleagues stole Chinese state secrets and greatly damaged China's economic benefits and safety," Qin Gang, spokesman for the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said this week.

"The allegations are based on Article 111 and Article 398 of China's criminal law against public servants." Sun Cunxin, lawyer of the Beijing Hengsheng Law Firm explained to *Beijing Today*.

In China, industries like railway, post and mining are monopolized. All the employees are treated as government officials, or public servants. Therefore, staff from these companies, like Shougang Group, involved in this case will be taken as "public servants of a state organ" in law.

"For one thing, business rules are not almighty in all situations, and foreign companies, especially those related to vital industries in China, should pay more attention to political policies.

"For the other, China's previous attitude toward foreign investments will be corrected to some extent, and more problems like bribery and industrial espionage will be open to the public," Duan Hongbin, a financial analyst and columnist, said.

"Rio Tinto was too forceful in negotiations. It doesn't want to make any concession in the prices it offered," Shan Shanghua, secretary general of CISA, told local media.

New reports say the government hopes to readjust and consolidate its iron industry, which is in shambles. Many mills receive deliveries from foreign suppliers without heeding CISA's warning: anything to earn a profit.

## Hu not detained alone

The commotion over Hu overshadowed this weekend's arrest of Tan Yixin, head of iron ore imports at Shougang, a state-owned steelmaker.

Tan confessed to "having revealed China's negotiating strategy and bottom-line price" to Rio Tinto, Reuters reported, citing an anonymous source.

Senior management of another five iron mills in China are being investigated for corruption and revealing secrets.

Reports said the government is investigating a number of steel mills,

including Baosteel in Shanghai, Anshan Steel in Liaoning and Jinan Steel in Shandong. Another 20 small mills and trading companies will be forbidden to import ore.

CISA has reportedly accepted Rio Tinto's offer Wednesday, which many observers cite as proof that China does not want to link Hu's arrest with the negotiations.

Analysts said Hu's case may bring down huge fines on Rio Tinto, but it will not influence bilateral relations.

## Commercial espionage & bribes in China:

**2002:** Fang Fuming, a former official at State Power Zhenjiang Branch took a position as in a multinational company. He used his contacts to harvest trade secrets and projects, including State Power's purchasing list. He won tens of projects and caused State Power to lose billions of yuan.

**2004:** Lucent was allegedly bribing senior Chinese officials for its commercial benefits in China. A number of Chi-

nese officials were charged and sentenced.

**2005:** DPC, a medical equipment company from the US, was charged for bribing Chinese officials and doctors to sell their equipment.

**2007:** China has many non-ferrous metals, but unlimited, mass exports have caused the price to slip and prompted the US and EU to accuse the country of dumping. The government stepped in to clear export channels, but that action brought new

US complaints.

**2008:** Guo Jingyi, a Ministry of Commerce official in the Department of Laws and Regulations, created loopholes in the laws regulating foreign acquisitions of Chinese companies. He was bribed to serve overseas interests.

**2008:** Siemens and Avon were exposed, separately, of bribing Chinese officials with huge money to sell their products.

(By Zhao Hongyi)



# Should Shanghai Expo accept money from tobacco company?

By Chen Zao

A Shanghai tobacco company has donated 200 million yuan to the Shanghai World Expo – by far the largest financial contribution to the extravaganza taking place next year. But 20 public health experts stepped in and suggested that expo organizers refuse the donation since they should promote a “green” and “smoke-free” event.

The expo’s budget is expected to reach 28.6 billion yuan, coming largely from business deals, aside from public funds. In this light, a 200-million yuan donation is no small change.

The tobacco company’s supporters say the public should be aware of the distinction between “donation” and “sponsorship.” A donation is a “voluntary act that does not care about repayment,” while a sponsorship is concerned with the “outcome of advertising.” The tobacco company’s actions fall under the first category, they say.

The opposing camp says accepting the money will open possibilities for the tobacco company; it will likely request a presence at the Shanghai expo, which is contrary to the image of a green expo.

A group of scholars and public health experts said “smoke-free” does not only mean a ban on smoking in public places, but also on tobacco promotion and sponsorships.

Observers say the crux of the argument is not the meaning of “donation” and “sponsorship,” but how to deal with the donor enterprise’s image. Any action must weigh the influence of the donor’s image on the event and the donation’s economic benefits.

A donation is usually associated with charity groups, but the expo is an economic pursuit. So should the Shanghai World Expo accept the money?

## Expert’s view: not a metaphysical issue

A donation is comparable to a charity fund. Money’s usefulness has no color; it is imposed by human beings. As long as it is used legitimately, there is no reason to refuse the donation.

Even if the money is ill-gotten, if it is reclaimed and used for the public welfare, it becomes part of a charity fund because its purpose changes fundamentally.

If the money is for human development,

it would have been the best use for it, and the more of it, the better.

— Chen Dali,  
undersecretary-general,  
China Documentary Committee

## Comments:

### Advantages:

Some netizens think it’s well of the donation. The tobacco company is giving charity; its intention is not to advertise its product, so it is not in conflict with the (World Health Organization’s) Framework Convention on Tobacco Control China signed.

What the Shanghai World Expo should do is to regard the money as a “donation.” If it becomes a “sponsorship,” then it violates the Framework. The expo can strengthen supervision to prevent advertising and promotion by donor

enterprises, rather than refusing donations outright.

Many people say that donations and the smoking ban are two separate issues and should not be confused. The tobacco company is a legitimate enterprise, and it is aware of its social responsibility like other businesses. Donations should not have moral standards.

(Tong Yi, netizen; Wen Guopeng, legal worker)

### Disadvantages:

The Shanghai World Expo should be proud of its image to the world. Every move it makes

can contribute to Shanghai and China’s reputation. If the tobacco company tries to market its product under the guise of social responsibility, and ignores public interest, that is pseudo-social responsibility and the expo is obliged to refuse the donation.

A number of netizens say refusing the donation will prevent teenagers from becoming familiar with the tobacco company and will prevent the company from creating a “good social image.” If the company is socially responsible, it should use the money to help smok-

ers quit and publicize the great dangers of smoking.

(Ji Jianmin, netizen; Li Hui, reporter)

### Suggestions: Promote anonymous donations

Some people think there’s nothing wrong with a donation from a tobacco company.

However, anonymous donations can be promoted to avoid conflicts. It will be a win-win solution that allows the tobacco company to make a contribution to society and avoids a controversy.

(Wan Kuige, netizen)

## Background:

### Smoking situation in China

China has the world’s largest smoking population – 350 million – representing one-third of the world’s total. Nearly 60 percent of Chinese males older than 15 smoke regularly.

Five million people die of smoking-related diseases worldwide, exceeding the combined total deaths from AIDS, tuberculosis and traffic accidents. Among the 5 million, 1.2 million are Chinese nationals.

More seriously, the country’s smoking population is getting younger, according to a national survey. Males started smoking at



A hand-shake is not always beneficial.

age 22 in 1984; eight years later, they started at age 18. Females went from 25 to 20 years old within the same period.

Among college students, senior high school students and junior high school students was

a smoking population of 46 percent, 45 percent and 34 percent, respectively, according to a recent study by the Ministry of Health.

In 2007, China began implementing a law to protect non-adults from tobacco and alcohol sales. From May 1, 2008, Beijing banned smoking in public areas. Reports say the Chinese government is considering increasing taxes on tobacco products. The plan has been hailed by the public, though it still has to go through a lengthy process before becoming law.

(By Zhao Hongyi)

## Background:

### Framework Convention on Tobacco Control

The treaty, negotiated under the auspices of the World Health Organization, was developed in response to the globalization of the tobacco epidemic.

The framework, which China signed in 2003, says “parties agree that the tobacco industry should not market its products in so-called corporate social responsibility projects.” Thus, the government banned the broadcast of tobacco advertising.

But some tobacco companies have resorted to “soft advertising,” under the guise of donations.



By Wang Yu

Two years after shooting his first Beijing street photo on Changan Avenue one night in 2007, American Nels Frye is getting ready to publish a book about the capital's street fashion. The pictorial features the photos on his Web site stylites.net, which built his reputation as a "foreign expert on Beijing style."

Frye came here as a consultant four years ago after stints in Taipei, Hong Kong, Hangzhou and Chengdu. The Boston native's interest in China grew from reading one of the country's masterpiece novels, *Romance of the Three Kingdoms*, when he was 14. He became curious about the book after playing a computer game based on it. He soon decided to learn Chinese and now speaks the language fluently.

The man who inspired Frye

to pursue street fashion photography was a homeless man whose photograph resembles Jesus Christ. He wore a mustache, carried a staff and wore Adidas-like trainers and a checkered wool coat. Yes, he looked odd, but somehow shared the same passion for self-expression that shines in Frye's eyes. The American snapped a picture of the man, posted it on stylites.net and thus began his photography career.

Frye named the Web site after a Christian ascetic, St. Simeon Stylites, an Assyrian monk who sat for 50 years atop a column outside Antioch, an ancient city in west-central Turkey. Stylites may have only worn a loin cloth, Frye said, but a person who sat on a pillar for everyone to see for five decades had to be as vain as the stylist who appears on his site.

On weekends, armed with his camera, he would visit areas such as Nanluogu Xiang, Xidan and Sanlitun and photograph stylish people. "Beijing is similar to American cities that have so many cars and don't leave enough space for pedestrians to show off their style, like they do in Europe," he said. Beijing, however, is unlike Western metropolises like New York and London, where photographers easily bump into celebrities on the street, he said.

Frye said about a third of the people he wanted to photograph declined. As for the rest, he tried to learn their life stories and include some of this information on his Web site. Local magazines soon noticed his project and published some of his photos.

Frye does not want stylites.net to be described as a "fashion site," although it carries dozens of pic-

tures of stylish people. "I like to take photos of those who dress in a special or weird way, and who have a unique self-expression. This site walks the line between fashion and anthropology," he said.

He does not take many photographs of foreigners, although they may look trendier than the locals. "The theme of my work is Beijing, not stylish travelers from Western countries. I post photos of foreigners only if they live here," Frye said.

His Web site has also attracted fans outside China who are curious about fashion trends in Beijing, including people from the US, Germany and Britain. Frye said there's a huge contrast between dressing trends here and in foreign cities.

"Look at this," he said, pointing at a picture of a young woman in a pink suit with huge cartoon

characters. "I don't think I can find a girl who dresses in the same way in New York. But her long blond hair and yellow glasses may also startle viewers. I don't think she dresses well, but she is a typical Chinese teenager who doesn't like to follow fashion rules, which people in the West tend to stick to. Here, young people are more creative when they dress."

Beijing's average shoppers are a different story, Frye said. They worry too much about the buying the latest clothes, rather than developing their own style. "I suggest you have your clothes tailor-made. Most dress shops in Beijing offer a good price," he said. "Besides, young people in the West usually hunt for clothes in second-hand stores where they can get inexpensive but good stuff. You guys should also try it," he said, a glint in his eyes.

## NBA star fulfills childhood dream in Shaolin Temple

NBA star Shaquille O'Neal finally fulfilled his childhood dream of setting foot in the Shaolin Temple, considered the cradle of kung fu.

The basketball player visited the temple in Henan Province on Monday, during his China tour for domestic sportswear company Li Ning. "I heard a lot about Shaolin Temple when I was in America," O'Neal said. "Li Ning advised me to come here for Shaolin Kung fu, in pursuit of my dream," he said.

In the temple's training room, O'Neal watched kung fu performances by the Shaolin monks, and was impressed with their Snake Style and Drunken Style. When asked why he liked the Snake Style, O'Neal said it suited him because of his long arms and his ability to move quickly.

The American athlete was also attracted to the spirit of Shaolin Kung fu. He told a reporter that one of his favorite fictional characters is Optimus Prime of the *Transformers*, who is always ready to help for a just cause.

O'Neal has been fascinated with martial arts since he was a child, and is a big fan of many Kung fu stars, especially Jackie Chan and Jet Li.

He told the Shaolin monks about his desire to learn kung fu.

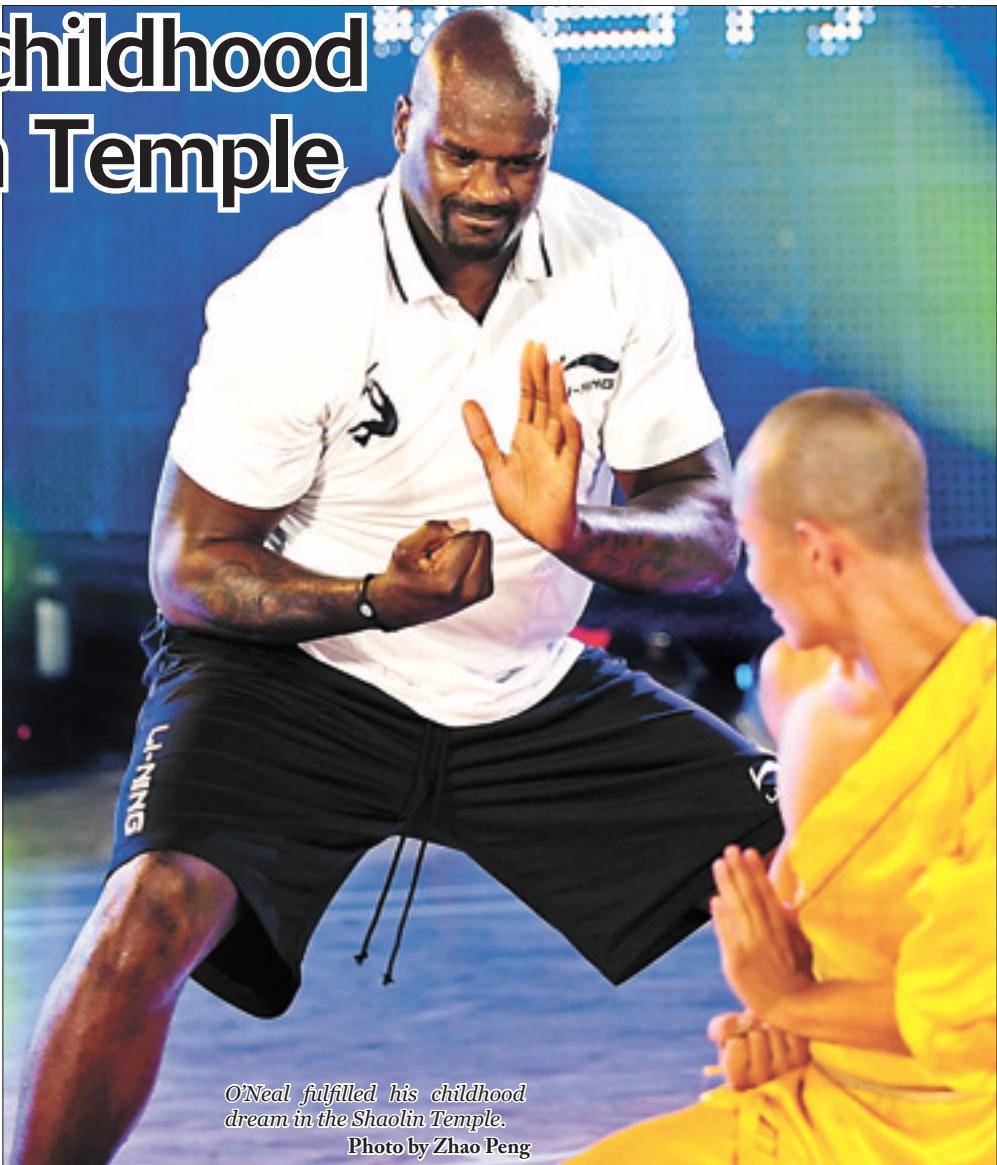
Shi Yongxin, the temple's abbot, encouraged him, saying, "you are a genius in playing basketball, and Shaolin Kung fu is likely to contribute to improving your basketball skills."

The All-star player said he believed in the philosophy behind Shaolin Kung fu and was confident it would enhance his game, and help him to work better with fellow Cleveland Cavaliers player LeBron James.

O'Neal gave Shi a signed basketball shoe as a present. Meanwhile Shi gave O'Neal a statue of Bodhidharma, the founder of Shaolin Kung fu, and a special body plaster that is believed to aid in healing.

The abbott told O'Neal he wished to work on the mutual promotion of Shaolin Kung fu and basketball. The NBA player promised to come back and spend more time to learn Shaolin Kung fu.

"Though I'm a master in the field of basketball, I need to improve my knowledge in other areas so I can do a better job at basketball. Shaolin Temple is the place where I can learn to have a better insight into the world around me. I want to be someone with wisdom. Thus, I will spend several years cultivating myself under this religious doctrine," O'Neal said. (By Yao Jia)



O'Neal fulfilled his childhood dream in the Shaolin Temple.

Photo by Zhao Peng



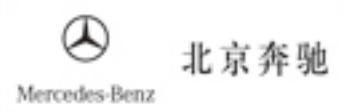
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# Baking lessons make French goodies accessible to locals

By Annie Wei

One morning last weekend, a quiet restaurant on Gulou East Avenue suddenly became filled with excited chatter. A dozen young Chinese women were at Connections bar and grill for their first French baking lesson, and they were going to make chocolate truffles.

Directing the day's work was Frenchman Romain Beaulande, an IT professional who considers it his mission to share delectable French baked goods with the Chinese people.

Beaulande has no formal training in cooking and baking; everything he knows stems from his passion for good food. "I've enjoyed cooking since I was a kid," said the 28-year-old, whose grandmother, a Parisian baker, taught him the tricks of the trade.

In his six years in Beijing, Beaulande has never bought a cake for himself or for his friends. He said the products in local bakeries do not agree with his taste buds. And every time he brings a cake to a party, people are amazed at his sugary creation, and ask him for lessons.

"Romain's cakes taste as good as what I can buy in Paris," said Anita Ding, a 25-year-old investment analyst, who lived in Paris for 10 years.

Beaulande seriously considered his friends' request. After preparing for two



Romain Beaulande teaching how to make chocolate truffles at Connection bar & grill

Photo by Sara Zhai

months, he finally held his first class last Saturday.

He was probably more nervous at the time than his students. When they were melting the chocolate for the candy balls, he got a bit tense making sure his students did not burn down the restaurant. But the day will be remembered for people's laughter and teasing.

Beaulande decided to "localize" his recipes because of several factors: Western ingredients are hard to find in town, they are usually pricey and most Chinese people do not own an oven. It was a challenge finding affordable but quality ingredients, he said. For the chocolate truffle class, he charged 50 yuan per person, which cov-

ered both the ingredients and the venue rental.

Beaulande hopes to attract more young Chinese people to his class. So far, douban, a Chinese social networking site, has been a big help, he said.

For more information about Beaulande's baking classes, visit his blog at [blog.sina.com.cn/chezromain](http://blog.sina.com.cn/chezromain).

## Event

### The beautiful era with Xiao Hui

This new quartet performs 1930s-style Shanghai jazz. Percussionist Jimmy Biala leads the troupe, which includes Jorg Tanneberg on guitar, Sebastian Meyer on bass and Xiao Hui on vocals.

Where: Stone Boat Bar, Southwest corner of Ritan Park, Chaoyang District

When: July 17, 9:30 pm

Tel: 6501 9986

Cost: Free

### City walk – Vanishing Beijing

Discover the history of Beijing's hutong in this walking tour that takes you through an area of the city in the process of being torn down. A professional tour guide leads you through the winding streets, with a tea stop in the home of a local woman who has spent her life in the hutong.

Where: Meet at Exit C of Hepingmen station on Subway line 2 at 1:30 pm

When: July 18, 1:30-5 pm

Tel: 15117916648

Cost: Free

### Talk and performance – modern dance in China

Explore Chinese modern dance with a lecture by Willy Tsao, artistic director of BeijingDance/LDTX, on the art's history and development in the country. This will be followed by a performance of short dances by the troupe's vibrant young members.

Where: UCCA (Ullens Center for Contemporary Art), 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, 798 Art District, Chaoyang District

When: July 18, 2-4 pm

Tel: 6438 6675

Cost: Free

(By Chen Zao)

# Illustrations of Spanish children's hopes and dreams on display

By Zhao Hongyi

Fifty-eight book illustrations about children's hopes and dreams went on display at the Instituto Cervantes on Wednesday. The exhibition, titled "The Best," features drawings by 29 Spanish artists that provide a fresh look at the aspirations of Spanish boys and girls.

"Kids and teenagers have a rich and incredible understanding of our world, which inspires illustrators to put these ideas into paper," Inmaculada Gonzalez Puy, head of the Spanish cultural center in Beijing, said at the exhibition's opening. "We hope this will encourage us to keep on dreaming and hoping," she said.

The illustrations, selected from books for children and young adults, also give people an opportunity to learn more about the book illustration market in Spain, Puy said. Organizers hope the exhibition will likewise remind visitors of the importance of intellectual property rights.

The annual display of children's book illustrations began in 2005 when the International



Children and teenagers enjoying Spanish book illustrations about kids' hopes and dreams at the Instituto Cervantes on Wednesday.

Photo by Zhao Hongyi

Kids and Juveniles Books Library opened in Bosnia. That year, 29 Spanish illustrators contributed five art works each to the exhibition.

The Spanish Embassy's cul-

tural section, organizer of "The Best," showcased two pieces from each painter this year. But it provides visitors with a free CD containing 145 illustrations by the 29 featured artists, and 225

more similar pieces from 73 other illustrators.

The exhibition, which runs through September 27, is a curtain-raiser for the upcoming Beijing International Book Fair

on September 3 to 7. The fair, held every year at the China International Exhibition Center, was absent in 2008 because of the Beijing Olympics.

As the honorary host of this year's book fair, Spain will present a series of cultural events, including Spanish modern dance performance Provisional Danza on August 31; a baroque concert on September 1; and a play based on the Spanish novel *Don Quixote* on September 3.

People who view "The Best" are encouraged to create their own paintings during their visit, and display their works beside the Spanish illustrations in honor of Instituto Cervantes' third anniversary in Beijing this year.

The center also offers Spanish language classes and proficiency tests, provides movies and lectures from various Spanish-speaking countries, and has a library with Spanish books, audio and video materials. It recently launched a Spanish-teaching website to make learning the language more accessible to people everywhere.

# Free orientation session for expat pet owners

By Wang Yu

**S**ummer is when foreign tourists and expatriate workers with their families or pets flood into town.

Pets bring a lot of joy, but they can be a source of inconvenience – and can get into a lot of trouble. Pet owners therefore know the importance of medical care, grooming services and obedience training so that they and their furry friends can live happily.

But most foreign pet owners in the country still have a lot to learn about China's pet regulations. To help them, the Beijing International Center for Veterinary Services (ICVS) will hold orientation lectures on August 15 and 27, in which experts will discuss how to keep pets happy, healthy and safe. The talks, given in both English and Mandarin, are free and open to all.

## Vaccination required

Health issues are some of pets owners' biggest concerns. ICVS says that dental care should be a priority in addition to fever and other common diseases. Pets should have their own toothbrush once they start growing teeth. This will help prevent the tooth decay that causes bad breath; "dog breath" is one of the downsides of keeping a pet, but it can be avoided, ICVS says. Infections caused by dental problems may also shorten a pet's life span by damaging its internal organs.

Expats who get their first pet in China need to know the country's vaccination and pet registration requirements. Dogs, for instance, have a registration period that runs from May



Pets need to be cared for.

CFP Photo

## Welcome to Beijing orientation for pet owners

Where: International Center for Veterinary Services (ICVS), Kent Center, 29 Liangmaqiao Lu, Anjialou, Chaoyang District  
When: August 15, 11 am – 12 noon; August 27, 6:30 – 7:30 pm

to early June each year. If a dog owner registers his pet any other month, the registration will still expire on May 1 the following year.

## Size matters

Dogs kept within the eight major districts of Beijing – Chaoyang, Dongcheng, Xicheng, Chongwen, Xuanwu, Haidian, Fengtai, and Shijingshan – cannot exceed a height of 35 centimeters from the ground to its shoulder.

## Pet and passport holder

People who want to bring pets into China must remember the one-to-one rule: one pet per passport-holder. However, only Z or work visa holders can bring in pets. They will need the following documents to go through the paperwork: the pet's rabies vaccination certificate, a license to export from the pet owner's current country of residence and the pet's health certificate. To be sure, owners should also check with their veterinarians back home for other necessary documents.

## Pet food concern

When it comes to pet food, owners should be aware there are many brands being sold on the local market that are brought in through unsecured and illegal channels. Such products are commonly known as "parallel imports" or "smuggled goods," and may be contaminated or spoiled though the packaging may appear fine.

After the orientation lecture, pet owners can also tour ICVS' hospital and pet care facilities.

## ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to:  
[weiying@ynet.com](mailto:weiying@ynet.com)

I just moved to Beijing for work and am too busy in the office to do housework. I'm looking for a house cleaner, but I'd prefer someone who speaks English.

Leyu Home Services boasts that it has a scientific recruitment and training system. Check with it for an English-speaking house cleaner.

Tel: 6556 4701  
E-mail:  
[servicesbeijing@leyu4u.com](mailto:servicesbeijing@leyu4u.com)

I love eating sunflower seeds while sipping a few beers at night, but I can't get used to the taste of sunflower seeds here. I'm from the US and was wondering if the David brand of sunflower seeds is available here. I'm also looking for butter flavor microwavable popcorn, since I can only find the sweet kind in the supermarket.

Try Jenny Lou's grocery store, one of the biggest sources of foreign grocery items.  
Where: 6 Sanlitun Bei Xiaojie, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 6416 9281  
Where: 4 Ritan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 8563 0626  
Where: West Gate of Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 6507 5207

## Can you recommend a language school in the central business district?

Shine & Impress is a language school that offers both group and private classes. It also has group classes on Saturdays and Sundays, ideal for office workers.

Where: 415 Tongguang Building, (East of Exit B of Tuanjiehu station on Subway Line 10), Chaoyang District  
Tel: 6538 9766  
Email:  
[shineimpress@yahoo.com](mailto:shineimpress@yahoo.com)

(By Chen Zao)

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11

News u can use

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BEIJING TODAY

# Documenting the Photographer Lu Nan and his

By Han Manman

Lu Nan creates documentaries like none other. His work focuses on people who exist outside the mainstream, or who have slipped through its cracks. His subjects are lost and forgotten in a society of materialist elites.

Since he decided to be a documentary photographer some 20 years ago, he has lived like a monk, believing the "good stuff" comes from a simple and restrained life.

Lu went to the most dangerous area in Myanmar in 2006. There he got involved with drug dealers and addicts and documented their daily lives. The photos Lu took in Myanmar appear in his latest exhibition, "Prison Camps in Northern Myanmar," which opened last Saturday in 798 Art District.

## Prison camps in northern Myanmar

From June to September 2006, Lu spent almost four months in Yang Long Zhai Prison in the 1st Special Administrative District of Shan State, Myanmar. The Shan people have suffered from years of war and poverty, and are now rocked by the ripple effects of poppy cultivation and new drugs.

The exhibition shows 63 photos picked from Lu's 500 rolls of film which document daily life in the prison.

Yang Long Zhai holds only three types of prisoners, Lu says. Some are incarcerated for drug-related crimes and others for addiction. Most of the inmates enter hooked on heroin or new drugs.

Prisoners arrested for drug addiction are given simple food, water and no medicine.

"The first two weeks are extremely hard for new inmates. They have to go through an agonizing withdrawal that is accompanied by severe vomiting and discomfort," Lu says.

Since no one cares if the prisoners get ill and the prison has no medicine, his own supply box became the only comfort of many inmates.

"I learned a bit about medicine before I went in. After I cured a few prisoners, they began to trust me," Lu says.

However, Lu was deliberately slow to bring out his camera.

"I just went there and saw them. I took my camera with me and let them get familiar with it," Lu says. "A week later, they knew I wasn't going to harm them and acted natural when I was around."

That trust shines in his photos.

The prisoners dance, quarrel and bathe without any fear of Lu's lens.

"I got a sense of how the photographer really respected and protected the prisoners. He did not take any photos of the ugly side of human nature," Zhang Xin, a visitor says. She says past prison photos focused only on the faces of drug addicts in agony as they suffered withdrawal attacks.

"They are the same as us and deserve respect," Lu says.

## An "eccentric" photographer

Without an opening speech or announcement, it was hard to realize just when Lu's Myanmar series opened.

But those who know him best say that is his style. The photographer is extremely selective about exhibitions and refuses to allow anyone to photograph him. Interviews are very rare.

And so, few noticed when Lu attended his opening ceremony last Saturday.

The simply dressed, middle-aged man stood in the corner of the hall sporting Coke-bottle glasses. He seemed restrained when he suddenly found himself in the spotlight.

Since 1989, Lu has worked as an independent documentary photographer focusing on "hidden" subjects: questions of social justice, tolerance and humanitarian treatment. He spends a great deal of time following his subjects and puts himself on their level, often disappearing for long periods of time with no word.

His mysterious and odd character has earned him the name "the most legendary photographer in China." He was the first Chinese photographer recognized by Magnum Photos and remains the only one featured in the prestigious *Aperture* magazine.

Friends say Lu leads the life of a monk, spending his days working and studying and his nights reading Goethe and Plato to a background of Bach.

"He is very eccentric. Sometimes, he disappears for three to four years. No one knows where he goes," Na Risong, Lu's friend and this exhibition's curator, says. "But we don't worry about him. He's healthy and can take care of himself."

But 20 years of documentary photography has brought Lu little money. He borrows heavily to support his life and work. His prison camp series became possible only after a 15,000-yuan donation from his friends.

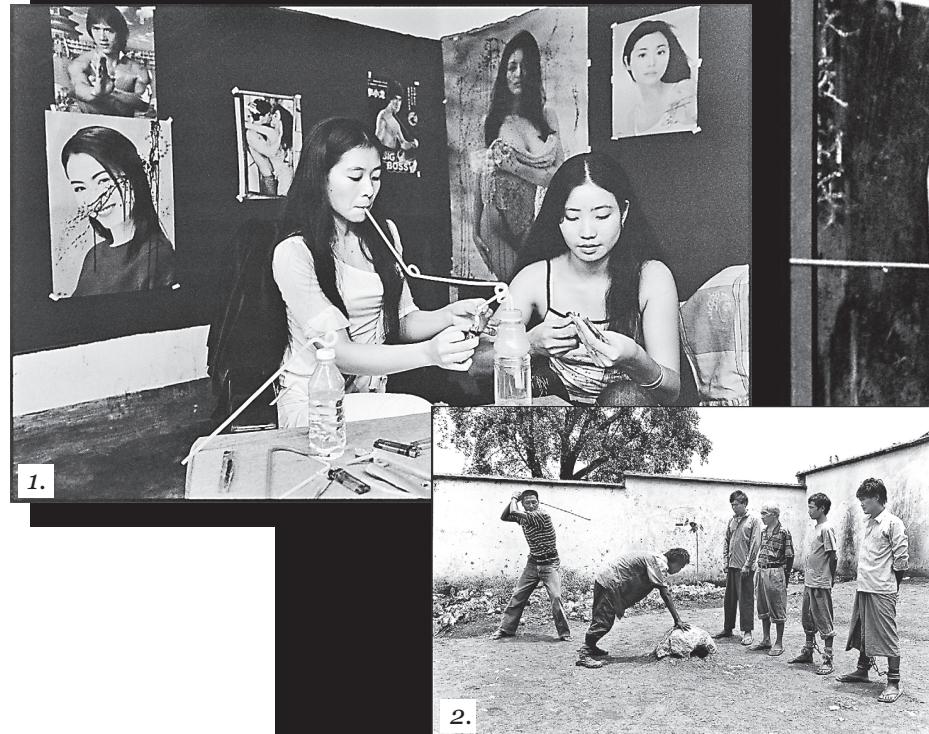
"Money comes and goes, so it's not important for me. I have had only one dream since 1989: that my work will outlive me," Lu says.

## Lu Nan profile

Lu Nan, 47, is one of China's best photographers. He is known for his trilogy that "symbolizes today's human state of mind."

Lu's trilogy includes *The Forgotten People: The State of Chinese Psychiatric Wards* (1989-1990), *On the Road: The Catholic Church in China* (1992-1996) and *Four Seasons: Everyday Life of Tibetan Peasants* (1996-2004). From 1989 to 2004, Lu spent 15 years traveling a dozen provinces to finish his epic.

Since 2005, Lu's trilogy has been exhibited both in China and abroad.



## Interview with Beijing Today

**Beijing Today (BT):** Do you always act so low profile?

**Lu Nan (LN):** If the photographer attracts more attention than his work, wouldn't that be a shame? I have interest in anything that is not related to my work.

**BT:** Did you have any memorable or touching moments during the three-month prison documentary?

**LN:** No. I don't ponder the past or anticipate the future. I just live in the present. I have no emotion when take pictures: I just document.

**BT:** Many people say only you can document the real lives of people outside the mainstream society, and you can win their trust. How do you do it?

**LN:** I don't do anything special. I just give respect and care about my subjects. They feel it, regardless of whether they are prisoners or mental patients. I've been to 38 psychiatric hospitals and connected with thousands of patients. They are normal people if you don't attack them. We're friends.

**BT:** What's made your work special?

**LN:** Spirit. My works always show some kind of spirit. A work that can withstand the ages has to have a spirit that can touch the soul.

**BT:** After this exhibition, what's next?

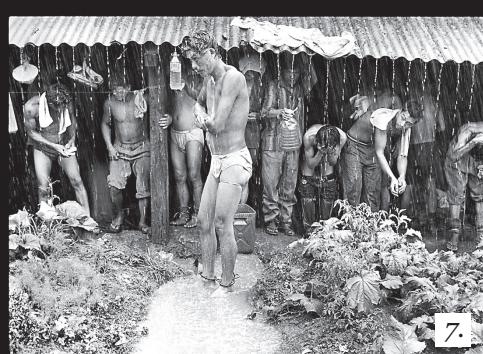
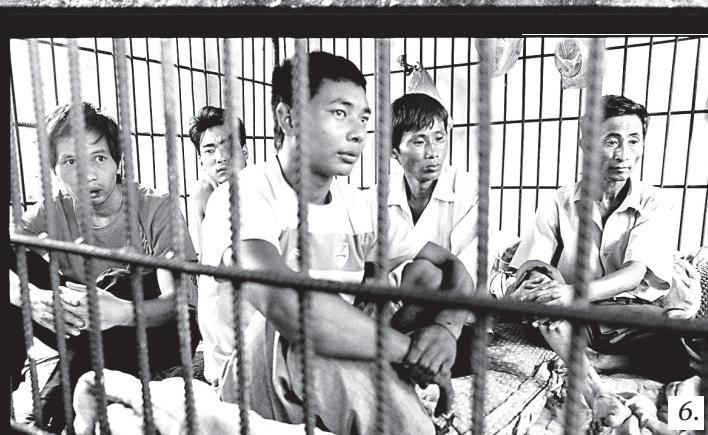
**LN:** Prison camps in northern Myanmar were a transition period after my trilogy. Next I want to work on something related to cities.

# 'hidden' subjects is philosophy

**Center stage**

**BEIJING TODAY** Editor: He Jianwei Designer: Deng Ning

**13**



## Prison camps in northern Myanmar

Where: Inter Art Center, Qixing Dajie, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District  
When: July 11 – August 20  
Tel: 5978 9029

1. Two female drug addicts
2. Five prisoners are punished.
3. Women arrested for drug trafficking bring along their children. There are no relatives to care for them.
4. Prisoners collect rain as drinking water.
5. Two prisoners suffering from heroin withdrawal.
6. Five men were arrested for taking and selling drugs.
7. Prisoners bathe in and collect rain.

Photos provided by Inter Art Center

# The artier life of a rock 'n' roll singer

By Charles Zhu

The life of Los Angeles songwriter, musician and actor Tom Waits has come to light in *Lowside of the Road: A Life of Tom Waits* (609pp, Broadway Books, US \$29.95) by Barney Hoskyns, a British music writer. The book explains how he writes such unique songs and what they mean. The penetrating rock biography of an impenetrable figure is a blessing for readers and fans.

*Lowside* is a serious biography of a musician of the highest caliber. Its careful analysis gives readers a firm grasp of what the singer means through his songs. Tom Waits is probably not "as important an American artist as anyone the 20th century had produced," yet he is as unpredictable a musical force as we have ever seen. Hoskyns offers an honest appraisal of the musician, now 59, who has been so good for so long. He presents Waits's junkyard aesthetics, based on interviews with the singer himself and historical records.

Waits was born in 1949 to a middle-class family of school teachers in Whittier, California. His mother was a gentle, quiet lady while his father, Frank, was a heavy drinker. When Waits was 10, his father left home and never returned. His mother moved the family to a town near San Diego.

Waits began to show his literary interest and was fascinated with Beat writers such as Jack Kerouac and the romantic life on the road. He dropped out of high school and took up the piano. He took piano lessons, laying a sound foundation for his later musical career while doing odd jobs. He once served as a doorkeeper for a nightclub. Even at that job, he never rested inactive. He tried to entertain the crowds outside of the nightclub with spoken-word performances, some of which later evolved into songs such as "Diamonds on My Windshield."

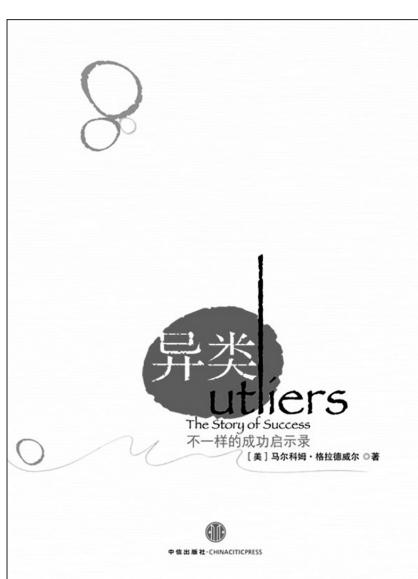
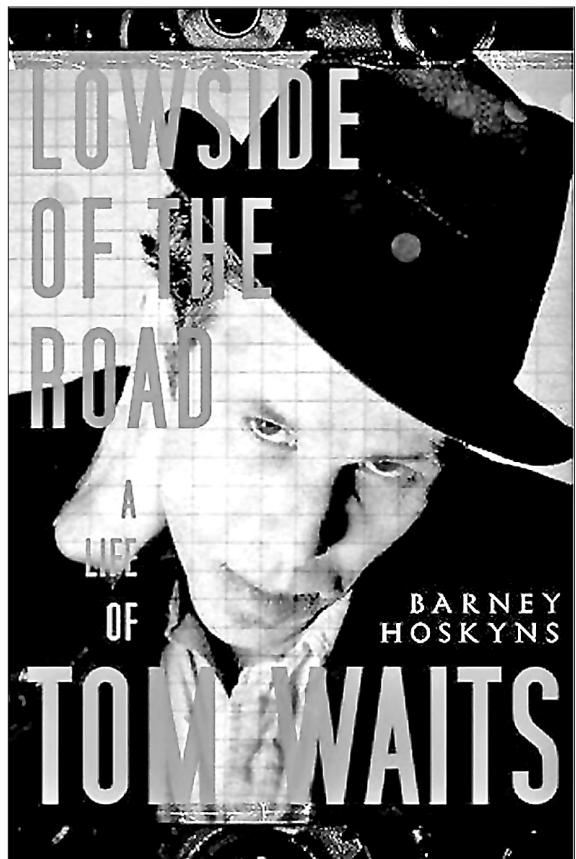
Waits left San Diego to seek his fortune on the Los Angeles stage. He met and toured with Frank Zappa and worked with Bette Midler, with whom he recorded the sublime duet "I Never Talk to Strangers," and Rickie Lee Jones.

Waits's marriage with Kathleen Brennan marked a turning point in his creative life, if not in his personality. Brennan is certainly a wonderful wife, being an artist herself and in the meantime a considerate companion who tries to protect the musician. She offered him a different musical narrative that proved most rewarding to the musician. Thanks to this husband-wife partnership, Waits's songs became starker and artier.

He forsook piano and guitar in his performance and began to dress in black, part of his trademark look. He turned to avant-garde art and collaborated with avant-garde theater director Robert Wilson to sell his "neo-primitive" art. Though he has written so much music, "the Waits we all secretly want" is the early one who is "slurred, mawkish, broken," Hoskyns writes.

He has three children with Brennan, who helped him quit smoking and drinking. He is so loved by his audience that one of the fans is quoted by Hoskyns as saying, "Who needs alcohol and drugs when you have Tom Waits?"

Such is the artist's effect on faithful listeners.



## What on earth determines success?

By He Jianwei

"Genius is one percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration," Albert Einstein said in his famous proverb about the secret of success. But a writer for *The New Yorker* Malcolm Gladwell concludes that inspiration and perspiration are hardly sufficient.

In his latest book, Gladwell takes readers on an intellectual journey through the world of "outliers" – the best and the brightest, the most famous and the most successful. The publication debuted at number one on the best-seller lists for *The New York Times* and *The Globe and Mail* on November 28, holding that position for eight weeks straight.

Its Chinese translation was published last month. *Outlier: The Story of Success* (272pp, China Citic Publishing House, 26 yuan) has become one of China's best sellers since then.

The book offers examples that include The Beatles, Microsoft's co-founder Bill Gates and the theoretical physicist Robert Oppenheimer. He discusses how family, culture and friendship each play a role in

an individual's success.

And he questions whether successful people deserve the praise that we lavish on them.

*Outlier* begins with research on why the majority of Canadian ice hockey players are born in the first few months of the calendar year. He figures out the answer is that youth hockey leagues determine eligibility by calendar year. Because the children born earlier in the year are bigger and more developmentally advanced than the others, they are often identified as better athletes, resulting in extra coaching and a higher likelihood of being selected for elite hockey leagues.

Gladwell describes the phenomenon of "the rich get richer and the poor get poorer" as "accumulative advantage." He connects it to sociologist Robert K. Merton's description the Matthew Effect, named after an opposing biblical verse in the Gospel of Matthew.

In the second part, Gladwell suggests a 10,000-Hour Rule: all successful people must hone their skills for a minimum of 10,000 hours. His prime examples are

The Beatles and Gates.

The Beatles performed live in Hamburg, Germany, 1,200 times from 1960 to 1964, a total of more than 10,000 hours of stage time, before they became famous. Gates spent over 10,000 hours programming on his high school computer at the age of 13.

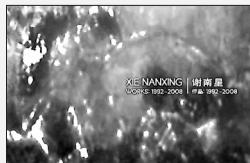
Gladwell denies a high IQ is the only, or even the most important thing, when determining a person's success. He gives the example of Christopher Langan, who had an IQ of 195 – contrasted with Einstein's 150. Gladwell points out Langan never reached a high level of success because of the environment in which he grew up.

In contrast to Langan is Oppenheimer, father of the atomic bomb. Oppenheimer grew up in a wealthy family, thus given an opportunity to experiment.

The bottomline is we pay too much attention to what successful people are like, and too little attention to where they are from: their culture, their family, their generation and the idiosyncratic experiences of their upbringing.

## Timezone8 book listing

Timezone8 is a Hong Kong-based publisher, distributor and retailer of books on contemporary art, architecture, photography and design. This week, it lists its three new titles for *Beijing Today* readers.



**Xie Nanxing: Works 1992-2008**

By Peter Pakesch, Nataline Colonnello, Ruth Noack and Xie Nanxing, 164pp, Timezone8, US \$50

Xie Nanxing is one of the most important contemporary Chinese painters working today. The first half of this catalogue covers his activities over the last three years, such as his large-scale paintings of veiled torture scenes. The second half is a reprint of the monograph *Xie Nanxing Paintings: 1992-2004*.



**Ni Haifeng: Para-Production**

By Pauline Yao and Ni Haifeng, 112pp, Timezone8, US \$20

The Chinese-born, Amsterdam-based artist Ni Haifeng creates mixed media works that subvert the cultural systems of language, return, exchange and production. *Para-Production*, documented here from inception through installation, utilizes shreds of discarded fabric gathered from Chinese garment factories to propose a conceptual reversal of capitalist production.



**Learning From Hangzhou**

By Mathieu Borysewicz, 332pp, Timezone8, US \$45

Over the last 10 years, the ancient city of Hangzhou has tripled in size and added a million people to its population. The book is an extended photo essay that situates Hangzhou within the physically and culturally transformative pressures of China's unbridled economic expansion. More than 3,000 photos of the city were captured from 2003 and 2008. The portrait catalog spans such themes as the ubiquity of demolition and construction, the city's architectural eclecticism, graffiti, advertising and the tenuous relationship between architecture and signage.

(By He Jianwei)

# Cards and coffee in your future

By Annie Wei

A well-educated couple decided to give up stable jobs at state-owned organizations to open the capital's only tarot-themed cafe.

Tarot, once an ancient form of playing cards from Europe and now a popular divination tool, has become increasingly popular in local circles. For the owners of Tarot Cafe, the cards are not just a gimmick: they are a tool to help customers in need of psychological help.

## Tarot Cafe

Wu Yelan, 28, graduated from Peking University with a double major in journalism and communications. She and her husband Zhao Zhengjie, 36, a former book editor, opened Tarot Cafe two years ago in the Andingmen-Houhai area.

The cafe is small with only three rooms, a couple of sofas and a yard outside. Wu's workplace is tucked into one dark corner with curtains and candles like something out of a Hollywood gypsy wagon. Zhao controls the rest, and specializes in making coffee. The restaurant sells 12 brews to correspond to the 12 zodiac signs.

The homey atmosphere is a big draw for many of the customers. The cafe is open from 3 pm to midnight seven days a week. When there are no customers, Wu and Zhao sit outside to read and share cigarettes and coffee.

On the weekend or after work hours, the cafe comes alive. On busy nights, friends and customers head to Wu's corner for advice on life and love.

Reading tarot cards was not Wu's dream job. Her husband wanted to open a cafe, and Wu said she wanted to keep a corner for her and her friends, many of whom already knew about her hobby.

## From divination to psychology

Many people unfamiliar with tarot cards associate it with psychics. But many tarot card readers disagree: Wu said many people who come to ask for a tarot card reading already have their own answers. They are seeking an outside voice for confirmation. Tarot card sessions offer a tangible way to review recent and past events to make a decision.

When asking for guidance about relationships and endeavors, a reader will ask how best to accomplish what one wants rather than if he or she will accomplish it.

One woman came to Tarot Café with friends and, out of curiosity, asked for a reading. She had a boyfriend with whom she had been in a stable relationship for a long time. She did not want to leave him, but she had met someone new, fun and interesting.

After her reading, she realized she was not happy with herself. Her job earned only the average, and her life had stagnated. When the new man came into her life, she focused her attention on him looking for a solution.

The next time she went to the cafe, she told Wu she decided to solve her own issues first before giving up her relationship.

Wu jokingly refers to herself as a "witch shrink": she was licensed last year as a psychological therapist by the National Labor Bureau.

But to solve some people's real issues, tarot cards are powerless. Another woman who came for a reading was facing a common situation: she was in love with someone who treated her badly. Wu found out the woman was from a strict family and had low self-esteem, and that was why she was attracted to cold, indifferent men.

"I think she needs professional help instead of tarot cards," Wu said. "No matter how many times I read her cards, it will always be the same story."

From tarot card reading, Wu developed an interest in psychology and took related courses. The cards were no longer a hobby, but a tool to open some customers' hearts.

Wu said that during psychological treatment, the doctor must devote a lot of time to unearthing what caused the patient's problems. The quest often begins with the patient's family and upbringing. But often, a patient will lie unconsciously and delay their own treatment. The mystique of tarot cards often encourages them to be more open.

## The cards don't know all

When the cafe opened in July 2007, Wu and Zhao organized events and posted information online.

Now they are trying to pull away from their fanbase, and they have stopped updating their blog. Zhao said tarot cards are interesting and worth studying, but it is wrong for people to be obsessed with it. Some people were turning to tarot cards to answer everything, and missing the point of living.

"You can tell that 98 percent of the children who play with tarot cards are from families with serious issues, broken homes or have parents who are selfish," Wu said. She herself was from a broken home, but then she met Zhao, who was from a big family with strong values.

"Wouldn't it be ridiculous if a high school kid, without any love or life experience, tried to do a tarot reading for a woman who is having problems with her marriage?" Wu said.

She stopped posting online because the people she was attracting were the social misfits that neither she nor her husband would like in their cafe.



## Tarot Cafe

Where: 10 Di'anmen Xi Dajie, Xicheng District  
Open: 3 pm - 12 am  
Cost: coffee starts at 20 yuan  
Tel: 6414 1366



*Wu Yelan was interviewed by CNN in 2007.*

*Tarot reading is Wu's hobby.*



*Costume party at Tarot Cafe*

## Tarot cafe to therapy clinic

Wu said 90 percent of the questions are about love and careers, 10 percent are about family and marriage. A few foreigners were curious about health issues and were looking for inner peace.

At the same time, 80 percent of her customers are women, and most ask about issues with boyfriends, divorce and whether to go back to their ex.

Zhao said people feel lost from time to time, not because they are mentally ill: it is just part of life in the big city. Beijingers face a glut of options and choices, and they obsess over which is best.

Zhao was motivated by his wife to study psychology. Now they act as each other's psychologist.

"Sometimes we end up in a bad mood because of a customer's issue or a problem at the cafe, so we talk to each other and work it out," Zhao said.

"Sometimes for the whole night," Wu said.

Although life and business at the Tarot Cafe is good, Zhao said they have plans to further combine tarot cards and consulting.



*Tarot Cafe*

Photos provided by Wu Yelan

# Simmering summer look from taobao.com



Qipao, 119 yuan



BCBG silk dress, 225 yuan



Sweet pink flower silk dress, 78 yuan

By Annie Wei

More and more shoppers, both locals and expats, have found great deals online – from high-end motor vehicle parts to beauty accessories like hairpins. The reason? The flood of products churned out by China's numerous factories servicing foreign brands.

Shopaholics find that doing their purchases on the Internet gets them three times more goods than they do in malls or boutiques. Online shoppers do get charged a shipping fee, but the cost is still cheaper than cab fare in Beijing, not to mention being able to avoid the weekend crowds.

But with millions of vendors online, how can a person narrow down the choices? This week, *Beijing Today* identifies some summer basics and reliable online sellers.



Bikini suits around 55 to 75 yuan, and fashionable sunglasses at 25 to 45 yuan each

Photos by Yu Tingmei



Miyazaki's Harry Potter Roll, 43 yuan

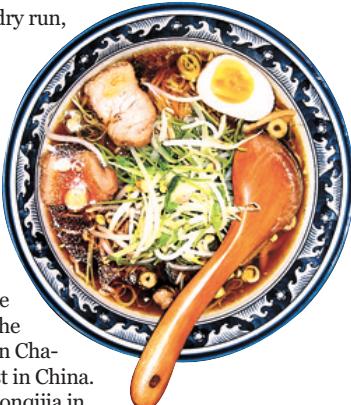
**1** New

## Tokyo's favorite ramen house

By Zhang Dongya

After a two-month dry run, Miyazaki's Noodle Restaurant is finally ready for Beijing. It offers authentic Japanese food like ramen and sushi at reasonable prices.

It is owned by a Japanese national with the same name, who also runs 23 noodle houses in Tokyo since the 1980s. The restaurant in Chaoyang District is his first in China.



Miyazaki's, called Gonqijia in Chinese, is a small place, only enough for a counter and two tables. Japanese paintings hang from the walls, and the menus are accented with Japanese calligraphy.

Miyazaki prepares its ramen the traditional Japanese way using a secret recipe. Most of its ingredients are shipped from Japan, especially the fish and seasonings like soy sauce and miso.

Regular ramen orders cost less than 20 yuan; noodles with miso are less than 30. They come in big wooden bowls, which are enough to satisfy an average-sized appetite.

The restaurant recommends its sushi, the ingredients of which come straight from Japan. The supreme sushi combo (68 yuan) combines the popular California roll with shrimps, salmon, squid, tuna and red carp.

Some have fancy names that represent their distinctive flavors, such as Love Season Hand Roll (19 yuan) and Harry Potter Roll (43 yuan). Ask the servers about their ingredients and how they got their names.

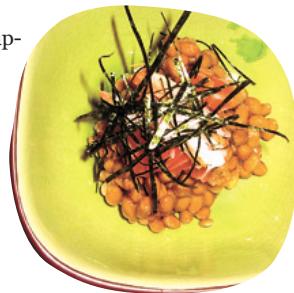
Appetizers are served in small dishes, some of which are under 10 yuan. Rice comes with either grilled eel, chicken, beef or seafood.

Miyazaki does free deliveries to places within a 10-minute walk. Remember to order half an hour ahead.

The restaurant has a special promotion this month: Sushi is "buy one get one free" every Monday. No better incentive to try a new restaurant that appears to be a hit in the Japanese capital.

### Miyazaki's Noodle Restaurant

Where: 20 Jintaili, Chaoyang District  
Open: 10:30 am – 9:30 pm  
Tel: 8599 4866



An appetizer under 10 yuan

Photos by Sherry Wu



Spice-diced bullfrog, 52 yuan

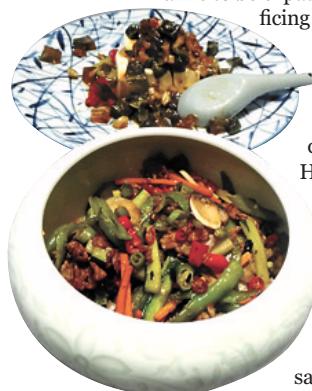
**2** New

## Hunan food for expats

By Annie Wei

Newly opened Karaiya Spice House is American born Chinese Alan Wong's first Hunan restaurant in town. His first eight are all Japanese dining places.

Karaiya is ideal for people who adore Hunan cuisine but want more ambiance and less oil and spice. Some people might say that little oil and spiciness do not make real Hunan food, but Karaiya aims to be expat-friendly even if it means sacrificing some lard and chilies.



Hunan spicy pork stir-fry, 35 yuan

Photos by Wendy Zha

It recommends Duo jia Yutou, steamed carp head with chopped chillies. At 128 yuan, the restaurant's signature fish dish is triple its price in other Hunan restaurants, but Karaiya uses the more expensive mandarin fish, which is meatier and more tender.

The Hunan spicy pork stir-fry (35 yuan) and spicy chicken gizzard (35 yuan) are among the favorites of Hunan diners', who say their level of spiciness is just right. Other dishes to try are hand-shredded chicken dry hotpot (52 yuan), spice-diced bullfrog (52 yuan) and stir-fried morning glory (30 yuan), a classic south Chinese vegetable mix of preserved tofu and fried water spinach.

Tofu and century egg (25 yuan) and spicy soybeans (15 yuan) make good starters. Jasmine rice costs 5 yuan a bowl. Heineken beer is also available at 20 yuan a bottle.

Dishes are delicately garnished and served quickly. But note that portions are small.

The two-storey Karaiya is probably the most stylish and artsy Hunan restaurant you will find in town; oil paintings adorn the walls and wood-carved decoration. And just like Alan Wong's other restaurants, it will take first-time customers a few minutes to figure out how to open its door. Talk about entering an exclusive world.

### Karaiya Spice House

Where: S10-30, The Village, 19 Sanlitun Lu, Chaoyang District  
Tel: 6415 3535  
Open: 10:30 am – 2 pm; 5:30-10 pm  
Cost: 50 yuan per person

## Craving for Singaporean food

By Sen-lun Yu

Beijing does not lack Southeast Asian food: There is a good selection here of Thai, Vietnamese, Malaysian, Indonesian and Myanmese restaurants. But authentic Singaporean cuisine was a big question mark until Prima Taste Restaurant came to town.

A must-try in this brightly furnished restaurant is the Hainan chicken rice (42 yuan) – practically Singapore's national dish. Introduced by people from Hainan Island during colonial times, the dish is made up of tenderly boiled chicken legs, fragrant rice steamed with chicken oil and spices, and a medley of sauces: chili, ginger and dark soy sauce. At Prima Taste, the chicken leg slices come on a large plate; the portions, not to mention the taste, makes it stand out among places offering the same dish.

Singaporean culture is a blend of Chinese and Malaysian culture, which is reflected in the city-state's food. Laksa (38 yuan) is the best illustration of this. The dish is of Peranakan origin, that is, born from the intermarriage of Chinese and Malay cultures. Typically served with thick rice noodles, the rich coconut gravy laced with fresh herbs and spices captures the Peranakan's love of spicy, full-bodied flavors.

Another Singaporean favorite is bak kut teh (42 yuan) or "pork rib tea" in Hokkien. The dish, adopted from southern China, is pork stewed in a mixture of herbs and spices. It is served with rice or fried dough.

Also recommended are mee siam (35 yuan), spicy vermicelli with egg in a tangy tamarind gravy; and uta yo tiao (22 yuan), dough fritters stuffed with fish paste, which makes a good appetizer.

### Prima Taste Restaurant

Where: 14 Xindong Lu, Chaoyang District  
Open: 11 am – 11 pm  
Cost: 60 yuan per person  
Tel: 6417 1459



Hainan chicken rice (top) and bak kut teh (bottom) are both 42 yuan.

Photos by Sen-lun Yu



# Swedish pop band cools off Beijing summer

By Wang Yu

In this era of Internet broadcasting, boundaries have been broken down; music produced by independent European labels has even found fans in China. Among these indies is Labrador Records, a Swedish pop company that has produced big bands like The Radio Dept., which will perform at MAO Livehouse on July 28.

The band was created by schoolmates Elin Almered and Johan Duncanson, who named it after a radio repair shop called Radioavdelningen (The Radio Department). However, the two men soon stopped playing music

together. The band made a comeback in 1998 when Duncanson was joined by another guitarist Martin Larsson. Its turning point came in 2001.

That year, Labrador Records heard its sounds on a CD that came free with music magazine *Sonic*, and signed the band. Two years later, it cut its debut album *Lesser Matters*. The artists showed off their talent with distorted buzzy guitar sounds inherited from the Shoegaze trend and driving digital drums. They describe their music as "cold and warm."

The album was ranked No. 9 on *NME* magazine's list of the 50 Best Albums of 2004.

The musicians say they don't feel pressure from the competition. "We despise most bands and artists, especially the ones people think belong to our scene. The ones we like we don't see as competition. They're an inspiration," guitarist Johan Duncanson said.

The MAO Live concert, organized by local Hot Pot Music, which focuses on introducing foreign bands to Beijing, is only one of band's stops in the country. Its China tour will also stage performances in Shanghai, Hong Kong and Taipei. The Beijing concert will include guest band The Chinos, a brit-

pop group from Wuhan.

The Radio Dept.'s repertoire for the show includes songs from its two albums and a couple from its upcoming record, *Clinging to a Scheme*. "We never do very long shows because we prefer leaving people wanting more, rather than getting boozed off the stage," Duncanson said.

## The Radio Dept. China tour

Where: MAO Livehouse, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District  
When: July 28, 8:30-12 pm  
Admission: 200 yuan  
Tel: 6402 5080

## Upcoming

### Exhibition

Coming from Songzhuang – New Contemporary Works  
Where: Artist Village Gallery, 1 Northern Renzhuang, Songzhuang, Tongzhou District  
When: August 1-31, daily (reservation necessary)  
Admission: 20 yuan  
Tel: 6059 8343

## Stage in August

### Concert

Audio-visual Concert of Symphonic and Wind Music  
Where: Beijing Concert Hall, 1 Bei Xinhua Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 1, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 10-100 yuan  
Tel: 6605 7006

Violin and Piano Concert by Sheng Zhongguo and Seta Hiroko  
Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District

When: August 3-4, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 10-100 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

Italian Pianist Paolo Vergari  
Where: Forbidden City Music Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), Dongcheng District

When: August 13, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 10-100 yuan  
Tel: 6559 8306

Iberia – Guillermo Gonzalez Piano Recital  
Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 23, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-480 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Dance

The Rain of Flowers along the Silk Road  
Who: Gansu Dance Drama and Opera Ensemble  
Where: Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 1-2, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-580 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Onegein

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District  
When: August 19-22, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-500 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

### Prism – International Contemporary Dances

Where: People's Liberation Army Opera House, 60 Deshengmen Nei Dajie, Xicheng District  
When: August 28-29, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 60-580 yuan  
Tel: 6673 6623

### Opera

Ode to the Red Chinese Plum by the PLA Air Force Political Department's Art Troupe  
Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 7-9, 7:30 pm  
Admission: 80-480 yuan  
Tel: 6655 0000

(By Jackie Zhang)

5

Friday, July 17

### Exhibition

#### Meeting Point

Where:  
C271-272, B2 Zhongguancun Plaza Shopping Mall, 15 Zhongguancun Dajie, Haidian District

When: Until August 6, daily, 10 am - 10 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8267 4001

**Jeong Ja Young, Yu Kiwanami and Kosuke Yamawaki**

#### Exhibition

Where: Noda Contem-

porary Beijing, Go1, Red Courtyard 2, Caochangdi, Cuigezhuang, Chaoyang District

When: Until August 30, daily except Monday, 11 am - 9 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5127 3187

#### Nightlife

**The Life Journey – "Tour Diary" Theme Show**

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 6402 5080

### New Perfume in Beijing

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

#### Movie

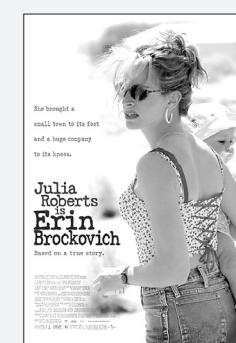
**Erin Brockovich**

Where: Blend Coffee, Room 1354, Building 13, Jiawai SOHO West Area, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5869 5030



6

Saturday, July 18

### Exhibition

**The First Contemporary China Printmaking**

#### Academic Exhibition

Where: Today Art Museum, Pingod Community, 32 Baizhan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 29, daily 10 am - 5 pm

Admission: 10 yuan; 5 yuan for students

Tel: 5876 0600

Shangdu, 8 Dongdaqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 20, daily, 10 am - 10 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 13661292687

#### Movie

**Hard Candy**

Where: 1905 Movie Club, B2, 6 Xiangjun Bei Li, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 7:30 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6591 8189

#### Nightlife

**Hi-Low – Our Summer**

Where: Wild Strawberry Cafe, 52 Houhai Nanyan, Xicheng District

When: 7 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 8328 4250

#### The Verse Funk Band

Where: MAO Live House, 111 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 60 yuan

Tel: 6402 5080

7 Sunday, July 19

### Exhibition

**China's Growing Sands**

This April, British photojournalist Sean Gallagher was awarded a travel grant by the prestigious Pulitzer Center on Crisis Reporting to conduct a multi-layered investigation into China's battle against desertification.

Where: Cafe Sarah, 42 Gulou Dong Dajie, Dongcheng District

When: Until August 5, daily, 10 am - midnight

Admission: Free

Tel: 8403 9807

#### Subjective Images

Where: Taikang Top Space, 798 Art District, 2 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until July 25, daily, 11 am - 5 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6438 8443

#### Nightlife

**Make a Feint to the East and Attack in the West**

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 2 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6591 8189

When: 9 pm

Admission: 50 yuan

Tel: 6404 2711

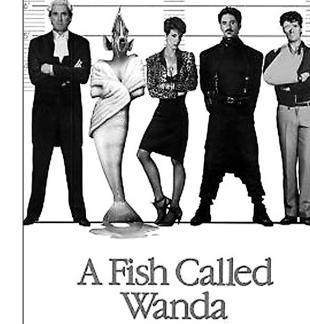
### Our Psychedelic Travel Vol. 2

Where: Hot Cat Club, 46 Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 20 yuan

Tel: 6400 7868



### Movie

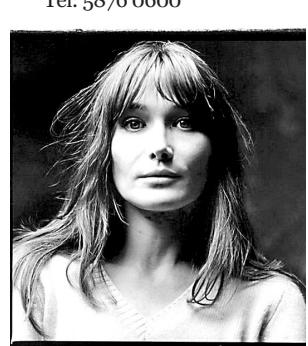
**A Fish Called Wanda**

Where: 1905 Movie Club, B2, 6 Xiangjun Bei Li, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 2 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6591 8189



**Gérard Rondeau & Pan Shiyi – 2009 SOHO Photography Exhibition**  
Where: 3/F SOHO

# Hot enough to kill yourself?

By Venus Lee

Beijing has been burning since the summer solstice.

With temperatures over 35 C and humidity levels at 75 percent or higher, many people have succumbed to heat stroke with headaches, fainting, dizziness, swollen lips, pale skin, a low heart rate and low blood pressure. In the worst cases, these are accompanied by convulsions, nausea and vomiting.

But if you just feel perturbed, listless, hostile or indifferent to everything, you might have "emotional heatstroke."

## High temperatures and suicide

Wu Ming (a pseudonym), 26, took more than 100 sleeping pills at the start of the month after an argument with her husband. She was discovered in time by a family member and brought to the hospital.

The Beijing Emergency Medical Rescue Center said there have been more and more attempted suicides turning up at the hospital since June – a phenomenon seen year after year.

Hot weather causes physical and psychological changes in people which can dramatically limit patience. People who are on the edge can easily be pushed to extreme actions like suicide, Zhu Jianjun, a psychology professor at Peking University, said.

The causes of suicide vary, but temperature is often a catalyst. "The persistent high temperatures affect the emotion-regulating center of the brain and cause people to develop emotional and cognitive barriers," he said. "Heatstroke is not only a physical disorder."

A report published in the *British Journal of Psychiatry* also said hot weather gives suicide rate a boost. The research was headed by Lisa Page, a clinical lecturer and National Institutes of Health research fellow at the Institute of Psychiatry at King's College London.

From 1993 to 2003, Page and her colleagues investigated whether there was any relationship between daily suicide counts in England and Wales and daily temperatures. They accounted for factors that would have skewed results, including year of death, month of death, day of the week, public holidays and hours of daylight.

During the 11 years, there were 53,623 suicides in England and Wales and 222 days with temperatures higher than 18 C. The daily average was 13 suicides.

Page found that when the temperature exceeded 18 C, there was a small but significant increase in suicides, especially violent ones that involved a shooting or hanging.

In fact, suicides increased by 42 percent during the heat wave from July 29 to August 3, 1995. Under normal temperatures, there would have been an 11 percent increase at that time of the year.

The way in which high temperature might contribute to suicide remains unclear. Researchers suggested it might be related to the neurotransmitter serotonin, since "serotonin levels are known to vary cyclically with low levels in summer. Postmortem studies have shown people who kill themselves have lower central serotonin levels."

## Preventing emotional heatstroke

**1. Stay calm and put your worries aside.** "Don't sulk. You have to learn to get rid of your negative feelings when things aren't going well," Zhu said.

**2. Get enough sleep.** Emotions are closely related to sleep quality. People who do not sleep enough or who sleep by day and work by night are usually unstable. Zhu said qi and blood flow backwards from 11 pm to 1 am, and if you stay up late the energy will be lost. Most damage occurs in the liver and kidney.

**3. Listen to music.** Music is a significant mood-changer and stress reliever. Put some relaxing music on your stereo, and then lie in a comfortable position on a couch or on the floor near the speakers. "To wash away stress, try taking a 20-minute 'sound bath.' Choose music with a slow rhythm – slower than the natural heart beat of 72 beats per minute. Music that has repeating or cyclical patterns is most effective," he said.

**4. Aromatherapy.** Floral scents can affect one's emotions. Flowers with a strong sweet fragrance like clove, rose, jasmine, lavender, telosma, cape gardenia and geranium can make people feel happy and excited. Flowers with a moderate and light sweet fragrance like osmanthus, hyacinth and lotus as well as foliage like aloe, cactuses and sansevieria can relieve stress.

**5. Moderate activity.** Walking, jogging, swimming, dance and tai chi can also improve confidence, Zhu said.

## Reducing risks of physical heatstroke

According to Chinese medical theory, people can easily develop a yin deficiency and yang surplus in summer, which causes internal heat. "When people are influenced by internal or external heat, their body stops working right," said Qiao Yifan, a doctor at Beijing Dongcheng Hospital of Traditional Chinese Medicine. "About 16 percent of all people have emotional heatstroke during summer, according to clinical studies."

However, the risk of heatstroke can be reduced by taking precautions to avoid overheating and dehydrating.

**1. Perspiration.** Light, loose-fitting clothing will allow perspiration to evaporate. Avoid strenuous exercise during daylight hours in hot weather.

**2. Sun-proof.** Wide-brimmed hats in bright colors or a sun umbrella keeps the sun from warming the head and neck; vents on a hat will allow perspiration to cool the head.

**3. Drinking plenty of water.** In hot weather, people need to drink plenty of liquid to replace fluids lost by sweating. Thirst is not a reliable indicator of dehydration. "A better indicator is the color of urine. A dark yellow color may indicate dehydration," she said. People also lose salts through sweat and urine, which must be replenished along with fluids.

**4. Eat right.** Avoid greasy, processed or fried foods and eat more fruits and vegetables.

## First aid after heatstroke

**1. Lower the body temperature.** Move the patient to a cool area and remove their clothing to promote heat loss. Cold compresses on the torso, head, neck and groin will help cool the person. A fan or air conditioner can be used to eliminate heat.

**2. Immerse a patient in cool water.** This method requires the effort of several people. Monitor the patient carefully during treatment, and do not attempt if the patient is unconscious. The patient's head must be held above water. Immersion

in very cold water is counterproductive, as it causes vasoconstriction in the skin and prevents heat from escaping the core.

**3. Hydration is paramount.** Have the person drink oral rehydration salts or get him an intravenous rehydration drip if unconscious.

**4. Seek trained medical personnel.** The patient's heart rate and breathing should be monitored, and cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) may be needed if he or she goes into cardiac arrest.

# Hidden hutong masters

## Discovering the inheritors of Beijing's culture of recreation

By Zhang Dongya

In ancient times, Beijing men referred to themselves as *ye* or "master." In the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), many *wangye* or members of the royal family and officials lived in what is now Xicheng District. They enjoyed carefree lives and were preoccupied with recreation, which imbued the imperial capital with a leisurely atmosphere. Today, Beijingers, especially men who live in *hutong*, continue their ancestors' favorite activities and have become masters in bird-raising, handicraft-making and kite-flying.

90 Percent Travel Agency, which aims to provide its clients with an authentic Beijing experience, offers a trip that showcases "the masters hidden in Beijing's hutong" and life in their community. One afternoon earlier this month, five foreigners did the tour to Xicheng by bike. "It was a good cultural exchange experience," said Matthieu Camboulet, a Frenchman who lives in Beijing.

### Emperor's way of life

The recreation-centered culture originated from the imperial palace, and then spread to the city's hutong residences. The most well-known "masters" during Qing belonged to the ruling Manchus' Eight Banners, administrative divisions under which all Manchu families belonged. It also provided the basic framework for the Manchu military organization.

The banner system was established in the early 17th century by Nurhaci, founder of the Manchu nation. It was divided into Plain Yellow Banner, Bordered Yellow Banner, Plain White Banner, Bordered White Banner, Plain Red Banner, Bordered Red Banner, Plain Blue Banner and Bordered Blue Banner. People from the Plain Red Banner and Bordered Red Banner lived in Xizhimen and Fuchengmen in Xicheng District.

Qing governors thought highly of the Eight Banners, and offered big wages and numerous benefits to encourage its perpetuation. Among citizens however, descendants of the Eight Banners were infamous for being unskilled, uneducated and lazy, instead seeking pleasure all day along. They surrounded themselves with drama performances, birds, crickets, kites and musical instruments. An old saying even goes, "There is nothing wrong in loving your children, but don't spoil them like the descendants of the Eight Banners."

But over time, their lifestyle influenced that of ordinary people, and the hutong masters were born.

As the imperial capital, Beijing was set apart from other big cities such as Shanghai by its culture of recreation. "Old Shanghai was thick with a commercial atmosphere, but Old Beijing was idle and carefree," Gao Hong, the founder and manager of 90 Percent Travel, said.

### Pet market and pigeon breeder

The hutong bicycle tour began at the exit of Chegongzhuang station on Subway Line 2. The first stop was Guanyuan Pet Market, the city's oldest market for birds, fish, dogs and cats. Some old sections of the market have been preserved, although it has gotten increasingly smaller with the passage of time; tall buildings have mushroomed around it, eating into its space.

Guanyuan is considered a window into Beijingers' daily lives. As a hobby, residents used to go into the mountains in the suburbs to catch birds to sell in the market. Few people do this nowadays, since the bird population in the suburbs has diminished.

90 Percent Travel's tourists were shown where to buy fish and dove feed in the market, in which bargaining is common practice. Next, they were taken to meet a man who bred doves and pigeons at home.

*Continued on page 21...*



Visitors can stop for photos at the White Pagoda.



Breeding pigeons in courtyard homes is one of the hobbies of old Beijingers.



An old man sells antiques in a hutong.



Old people selling birds and cages is a common sight in Beijing.



Xisi Bei Batiao is a classic hutong in Xicheng District.

CFP Photos

... continued from page 20

Zhao Fengsen, 46, has bred more than 60 doves and pigeons in his *siheyuan*, or courtyard residence. Doves and pigeons are the most popular birds in the city, and many are bred in courtyard homes. Zhao's visitors can give his birds feed from Guanyuan market; they can also feed his pet fish.

An object related to bird-raising in Beijing is *geshao*, a special whistle for doves and pigeons, and which goes back a thousand years. The whistle, usually made from bamboo, reed and gourd, is attached to the bird. Once the animal is in the air, the whistle makes a sound that varies according to the flight. Listening to the whistling sound is one of the joys of dove and pigeon breeders.

Tourists can also drop by Baita or the White Pagoda. The pagoda, located on Fuchengmen Nei Avenue, is a landmark that was constructed in the Yuan Dynasty (1271-1368).

### Classic hutong and courtyards

The bicycle tour passed through numerous hutong and courtyard homes where men were carrying bird cages and playing Chinese chess. Among the areas visitors saw was Xisi in Beijing's west and Dongsi in the east, bustling commercial areas and vital communication hubs in the old days.

Xisi in Xicheng District is dotted with numerous hutong and courtyard residences, some of which are considered classics of history. One of these hutong is Xisi Bei Sitiao, which has undergone numerous name and feature changes over the centuries. In Ming, it was called Shoupi or "dressed skin," after a dressed animal skin shop in the area. In Qing, its name was changed to Choupi or "smelly skin," because the shop's animal skins gave off a bad smell.

Courtyard homes in a variety of sizes can be seen around Xisi. On 19 Xisi Bei Santiao is a well-preserved one with three rooms. Larger courtyards, such as the one on 11 Xisi Bei Santiao, have dozens of rooms and a number of gardens. These old structures showcase ancient Beijing architecture, including *mendun* (gate piers), *yingbi* (screen walls) and stone carvings.

### Masters of kites, parrots and old articles

On 90 Percent Travel's hutong tour, participants also passed the homes of masters of kites, parrots and old household articles.

Wang Chifeng, a kite master, has a studio on 12 Nanguanfang Hutong. He is the descendant of one of China's top kite-making families; his clan is famed for its Eagle Kite, so it's no wonder Wang has been dubbed the Eagle King.

Visitors to his studio can watch him making a kite. One of his other impressive skills is being able to fly a kite even when the wind barely ruffles the leaves – a talent he is willing to show strangers.

On 8 Dafengxiang Hutong, the first thing people hear is birds speaking. A man surnamed Liu breeds parrots and mynahs, and teaches them words such as "nihao" (hello) and "zaijian" (good bye). Chat with the birds and their owner to get tips on how to teach your pet bird how to talk.

The last stop on the trip was an exhibition of old Beijing articles on 4 Lingdang Hutong. The private museum owned by A Long features a collection of 10,000 old articles including clothing, currencies and household gadgets. It is one of the best places to learn about Old Beijing life and customs.

*Xisi in Beijing's west was a bustling commercial area and vital communication hub in the old days.*



A courtyard home in Xicheng District



Tourists can try on traditional Chinese costumes during their hutong tour.

Photos provided by  
90 Percent Travel Agency



Making Beijing Opera mask souvenirs

A staff of A Long's private museum shows tourists some of their collections.



### Travel Information

**Agency:** 90 Percent Travel

**Cost:** 190 yuan; 160 yuan for people younger than 16

**Package includes:**

Bicycle (20 yuan deduction if participants brings own bike)

English-speaking guide

A bottle of water per person

Old Beijing tea break

Travel insurance

**Notes:** Tours groups take a minimum of five persons. Please reserve early.

**Tel:** 5962 6850, 15117916648

**Email:** info@90percenttravel.com

## Contemporary Cantonese cuisine

Spring Garden Restaurant offers a beautiful view overlooking a garden and the delicacies and specialties of Cantonese cuisine.

Where: Spring Garden Restaurant, Mercure Wanshang Beijing Hotel, 1 Yinhe Dajie, Shijingshan District

When: 11 am - 2 pm, 5:30-9:30 pm  
Tel: 6868 1199 ext. 57



## Asian lunch buffet

Indulge in the lavish buffet prepared by the Executive Chef Roberto Conrad in warm and friendly Cafe 99. The Regent Buffet features Asian dishes, refined seafood, a salad bar, dim sum, south-eastern cuisines and a variety of other Chinese dishes.

Where: Cafe 99, the Regent Beijing, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

When: Until September 9, 11:30 am - 2:30 pm

Cost: two eat for 199 yuan (special summer offer); individuals 199 yuan (conditions apply); prices subject to 15 percent service charge

Tel: 8522 1888 ext. 5650



## Eating with Nemo

Dive head first every Friday into the freshest seafood in Beijing at Elements. The spread includes king crabs, freshly shucked oysters, lobsters, caviar, prawns and salmon. Savor the flavor of your fresh catch with a range of home-made condiments, or have it steamed, fried or roasted to your taste at a live cooking station.

Where: Elements, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Daily, 6-10 pm

Cost: 228 yuan per person including coffee and tea; 288 yuan including coffee, tea and free local draft beer; add 120 yuan for unlimited wine; prices subject to 15 percent service charge

Tel: 5865 5020

## Antipasto lunch

An authentic antipasto buffet awaits you at the signature restaurant of the St. Regis Beijing. Features an array of authentic Italian appetizers accompanied by main courses a la carte and complemented by the dessert of the day. During this promotion, diners can enjoy a wide selection of Italian appetizers and select a main course from any of the chef's signature dishes.

Where: The St. Regis Beijing, 21 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: Monday - Friday, 11:30 am - 2 pm

Cost: 158 yuan net per person

Tel: 6460 6688 ext. 2440 / 2441



## Buy three, get fourth free

Invite your family and friends to experience the best of the world's cosmopolitan culinary creations. Be spoiled for choice with a lavish spread of local and international favorites. The open kitchen concept takes you on a tour of world cuisine with tastes and styles from Beijing to Paris with stopovers in Tokyo, Bombay, Rome and New York. French savoir faire is showcased with unparalleled quality and variety of breads, pastries and cheeses.

Where: Sofitel Luxury Hotels, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until August 31

Tel: 8599 6666 ext. 6521

## Hotel

### Exclusive promotion

Mainland residents can enjoy an exclusive offer this summer. Rates at Studio 45 start at 1,450 yuan. Add 500 yuan for an upgrade to Studio 70. Prices include an a la carte American breakfast for two, complimentary mini bar and Internet access. Rooms include flexible early check-in and late check-out times, gym and pool facilities, a daily selection of newspapers and guided culture walks of Beijing every

Saturday. Book a dinner at Bei or Sureno and get two glasses of complimentary champagne. Add a hotel transfer in a Maserati Quattroporte for 500 yuan each way. All rates subject to 15 percent service charge.

Where: The Opposite House, the Village, Building 1, 11 Sanlitun, Chaoyang District

When: Until September 30, Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays

Tel: 6417 6688



Partners. From now on, members may redeem their points for the following items: a 200-yuan Joyo Amazon Gift card (6,000 GPP), 500-yuan Joyo Amazon Gift Card (15,000 GPP), 1,000-yuan Joyo Amazon Gift Card (30,000 GPP) or 5,000-yuan Joyo Amazon Gift Card (150,000 GPP).

### Magical evening to inaugurate the Fairmont

The Fairmont Beijing opened with a sensational inauguration to mark another milestone for Fairmont Hotels & Resorts in China. Partners, owners,

celebrities and VIP guests were invited to attend a night of fine dining and live performances by an aqua dancer, an illusionist and an all-American Hollywood Broadway group.

### Wedding exhibition

The 2009 Wedding Exhibition is this weekend at Beijing Exhibition Center. Many new deluxe hotels are attending this year's exhibition for the first time. Couples can find inspiration picked from both elegant Western and Chinese-style weddings and a special wedding service introduction. Book during the exhibition period for discounts and extra services.

When: July 17-19

### Gourmet Experience

Discover Kaiseki, an exquisite Japanese cuisine artistically prepared by Nadaman's master chef, and luxurious accommodations at Kowloon Shangri-La, Hong Kong. Or stay in the lap of luxury at the hotel and treat yourself and your loved one to authentic Italian cuisine, prepared by Chef Vittorio Lucariello, accompanied by a wide selection of fine Italian wines.

### Find anything you want

Gloria Hotels & Resorts is cooperating with Joyo Amazon to provide new redemption choices for Gloria



## Marvelous martini Sunday brunch

Indulge yourself and refresh your senses at the Martini Sunday Brunch. Diners have six options, each equally fabulous.

Where: CBD International Cuisine, Grand Millennium Beijing, 7 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

When: August 1-31

Cost: 298 yuan per person including soft drinks, fresh juice, coffee and tea; add 70 yuan for endless martinis Mumms champagne and wine; prices subject to 15 percent service charge

Tel: 6530 9383

## Aviation

### Singapore Airlines to run 4 flights between Singapore, Manila

Singapore Airlines will add a fourth daily flight between Singapore and Manila from July 10. The increase from three to four daily flights, carried by the Boeing 777 family of aircrafts, will expand the capacity between Singapore and Manila by more than 20 percent. The increase has been made possible as a result of recent bilateral air services consultations between Singapore and the Philippines.

## Tourism

### New tourist ticket for Athens

The Athens public transport organization OASA unveiled a new three-day ticket priced €15 that will be valid for travel on all public transport in and around the city. The new tourist ticket is designed to act as a travel card for those on a short trip to Athens. It grants unlimited travel for three full days after the first use, including journeys to and from the airport and on the 400 OASA Athens sightseeing bus.

### Horseback photography trip in Inner Mongolia

Experienced local guides take you to the off the beaten path at an old royal hunting reserve. The area is much cooler than Beijing, and is a perfect escape from the scorching heat. Trip fare covers guided service, transportation in an air-conditioned bus, two nights at a local hotel, local guides capable of horse riding, tickets, a horse, six local meals and a picnic.

When: July 24-26

Tel: 15117916648  
(look for Hong)

(By Sun Feng)

**Chinglish story**

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

# Flying colors and blue murder in a Gulou bar

By Wang Yu

Last Saturday, Elve Liu, one of my best friends and the food editor of a popular magazine, organized a small party at a trendy bar on Gulou. The place was a renovated courtyard home, which was refitted with a roof deck with a barbecue pit.

At first, there were only eight of us occupying a corner of the deck – drinking, playing guitar and discussing the latest media gossip. I sat beside Agnes, a fashion writer and manager of some local rock bands. She is a beauty and rockers adore her, but I see her as one of the guys.

"What do you think of the girl sitting behind us?" Vincent, a band guitarist, asked Agnes. The young woman he pointed to was slim, wore dark green skinny jeans and looked elegant with a cigarette between her fingers.

"Outstanding, beautiful and far beyond your reach," she said. Everyone laughed.

There was a nice breeze that night to ward off some of the humidity. But suddenly, rain poured and we rushed to the ground floor through the narrow stairway. Agnes and I were two of the last ones down. We were drenched by the time we caught up with the group, which found seats on two big sofas.

"Hey mates, what a surprise!" It was Jon, my British friend who is in his second year of graduate school in Beijing. "Agnes, how are you? It seems you rushed back here with flying colors," he said.

"Oh, really? I must go to the bathroom to check my



CFP Photo

makeup," she said.

"What? Oh no ... You don't have to ... By saying 'with flying colors,' I meant you made it back to the room before it rained harder. Your makeup is OK," Jon said with a laugh.

"Fine, I got it. But for God's sake, no more slang Jon," Agnes said, teasing.

Jon joined us and everyone had a relaxing time watching the heavy rain cool off the city as 1930's jazz music wafted from the speakers beside us.

One of the groups was playing Mafia, a party game in which players are secretly assigned roles. During the game's night phase, the mafia chooses an innocent to kill. During the day phase, all the players try to guess who are mafia members and vote to kill a suspect. The game requires hard thinking, but players who aren't serious sometimes make it into a shouting contest – what these people were doing.

One of them was the attractive young woman we saw on the roof deck. She was arguing in a loud voice with the man sitting opposite her. Her voice drowned out the music; we could not even hear ourselves.

"What a blue murder!" Jon said.

"Aha, once again! So what does that mean this time? That she killed no one except our ears?" Agnes said with a smile.

"A blue murder is a very loud cry," Jon said. "She's too noisy isn't she?"

"Yeah, we agree with you – except Vincent," I said. It seemed our friend was enjoying watching the game, as well as the beauty's shrill voice.

Reading this sign zapped me into a fantasy world where children team up with quick-thinking, talking animals to save the world. It included a jumble of scenes from films I saw as a child – *Neverending Story*, which featured a flying "luckdragon" that looked like a dog; Disney's *Aladdin* with the flying magic carpet; and probably a cartoon version of C.S. Lewis's *The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe*.

By Tiffany Tan

To be fair, whoever wrote this sign was not far off the mark. A "flying fox" is an Australian and New Zealand Eng-

lish term for a children's play equipment suspended from a cable and propelled by gravity. But more people know flying fox as a name for the fruit bat.

The writer would have been better understood saying "cable car" or "chair lift," a vehicle suspended from an overhead cable system that has been constructed at various sections of the Great Wall.

But the sign was a welcome comic relief. I'm sure more than one person who saw it secretly thought, "If only I could ride a flying fox and make my childhood fantasies come true."

**Blacklist**

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

## 1. The restaurant marked 30 years in Beijing.

**Professor Zhu Shida (ZS):** This is a wrong expression. I don't know why so many people speak this way. It is illogical, ungrammatical and shows the writer's laziness. The restaurant was apparently founded in Beijing 30 years ago and now celebrates its 30th anniversary. An anniversary is the yearly return of a special date. For instance, The couple celebrated their 25th wedding anniversary. An anniversary is just like your birth date, a day you remember every year. You say you celebrate your 30th birthday; you never say you celebrate 30 years, isn't that right? What you are celebrating is the yearly return of the date. That's why people wish a celebrant "many happy returns of the day." How can you mark 30 years? You can only mark the "30th anniversary." The right way to say this is, The restaurant marked its 30th anniversary of entry into the Beijing market.

**Penny Turner (PT):** The original line can be fixed if the writer adds what the restaurant is marking after 30 years in Beijing – the start of its business. You can say, The restaurant marked 30 years of business in Beijing by giving diners a 30-percent discount yesterday. The word "mark," as a verb, can mean to "distinguish" or "make conspicuous" a certain date. Thus, using "mark" in such a context is fine if the thought is clearly expressed. *The New York Times* used the headline "US and China Mark 30 Years of Diplomatic Ties" in a story early this year about the 30th anniversary of Sino-US diplomatic relations. CNN's online edition wrote "Apple fans mark 25 years of Mac devotion" for a piece this January about the anniversary of the creation of the original Macintosh computer.

## 2. At a crossroad

**ZS:** This is a fairly tricky word for beginners. A crossroad means a road that crosses another. For instance, The hikers stopped at the crossroad puzzled at which way to go. We took the crossroad from the inland highway to the one along the coast. But there is another word – crossroads – which means the place where roads cross. For instance, We stopped near the crossroads to read the signs. It can also be used figuratively as in a *Wall Street Journal* article: The troubles of collective bargaining have brought labor to a serious crossroads. So the English idiom is "at the crossroads," never "at a crossroad." "At the crossroads" means a situation where a choice must be made. For instance, He found himself at the crossroads of his career when he had to decide between staying in business and entering politics. Interesting enough, crossroads is singular though it seems to be plural.

**PT:** Yes, crossroad and crossroads are tricky words, and the Professor gave a thorough explanation of their meaning and differences. "At a crossroads" is another idiom similar to "at the crossroads." According to the *American Heritage Dictionary of Idioms*, the expression came about because of the importance accorded to the intersection of two roads since ancient times.

**Chinglish on the way**

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

# Go by flying fox



# Angels & Demons (2009)

## Movie of the week

Tom Hanks returns as Dan Brown's symbologist Robert Langdon in Angels & Demons, his first adventure since The Da Vinci Code. In spite of its action scenes, this movie is more like a tourism video for Rome and the Vatican City. Director Ron Howard might be credited with sending fans in droves this year to the Holy See.

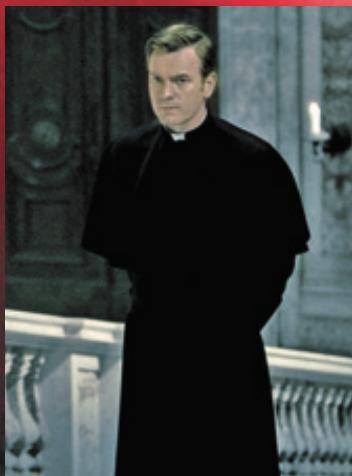
Fortunately, Ewan McGregor is there to save the show as he did in Trainspotting or the earlier Moulin Rouge. McGregor steals every scene as Camerlengo Patrick McKenna, a temp maintaining the papal office while the conclave of cardinals elects a new Pope. He plays Patrick with a glint in his eye that will be familiar to readers of the novel.

### Synopsis

Despite his notorious relationship with the Church, Harvard symbologist Robert Langdon is once again called upon to decipher the clues to a catastrophic conspiracy.

The Pope has died, but his four short-listed replacements, or preferitti, are kidnapped before the conclave can elect his successor. A threat to slaughter the preferitti, along with everyone in the Vatican City, comes down as part of an elaborate revenge plot by the Illuminati secret society.

With precious little time left, Langdon and the beautiful physicist Vittoria Vettra must travel around Rome to unravel the carefully hidden signs that will lead them to a terrifying adversary, a harrowing discovery and the shocking truth.



## Scene 1

(Langdon arrives in Rome with Vettra to discuss the case with Commander Richter, commendante principale of the Swiss Guard.)

**Richter (R):** Is that your stolen canister Ms. Vettra?

**Vettra (V):** Where is that camera, number 86?

**Inspector Olivetti (O):** Its wireless. It too was stolen. It could be anywhere inside Vatican walls.

**V:** That canister contains an extremely combustible substance, called antimatter. We need to relocate it immediately or evacuate Vatican City.

**R:** I am quite familiar with incendiaries Ms. Vettra. I never heard antimatter used as such.

**V:** Well it was never generated in significant quantities before. It is a way of studying the origins of universe. Try to isolate what some people called a "God particle." But there are implications for energy research ...

**R:** God Particle?

**V:** Ah, what we call it isn't important, it's what gives all matter mass. The thing without which we could not exist.

**Langdon (L):** You are talking about the moment of creation.

**V:** Yes, in a way (1) I am. The antimatter is suspended there, in an airtight nanocapacity shell with electromagnets in its head. But if it wore out of (2) suspension and came in contact with the matter at the bottom of the canister ... The two opposing forces would annihilate (3) one other violently.

**R:** And what might cause it to fall out of suspension?

**V:** The battery going dead ... Which it will just before midnight.

## Scene 2

(While Langdon is still looking for the preferitti, the Camerlengo is trying to persuade the cardinals to reveal the truth.)

**Camerlengo Patrick McKenna:**

Signore please, a moment please ... Our church is at war. We are under attack from an old enemy, the Illuminati. They have stroked us from within (4). Murdering our holy father ... and threatening with destruction of the hands with their new god, science.

They call it retribution, they think they are justified. Because of the church attacks on the men of science in the distant past and it's true. Since the days of Galileo this church has tried to slow the relentless march of progress. Sometimes with misguided means.

But science and religion are not enemies. There are simply some things that science is just too young to understand so the church says please stop ... slow down, think, wait. And for this they call us backward.

But who is more ignorant, the man who cannot define the lightning or the man who does not respect its natural awesome power? The battle is well on its way. We must defend ourselves. But what if this time we fight their openness, combat their wicked scheme with simple truth. And end this brutish battle once and for all (5).

If the outside world could see this church as I do, looking beyond the

rituals within these walls, they would see a modern miracle. A brotherhood of imperfect, simple souls who want nothing more than to be voices of compassion in a world spinning out of control.

## Scene 3

(The Camerlengo has committed suicide as he found the four were behind the whole thing. The next Pope is elected and Langdon has to leave.)

**Cardinal Strauss (S):** Professor Langdon, please. We are grateful you saved his life. It's our understanding that you require this text to complete your work. We ask only that in your last will and testament ... you ensure ... it finds its way home.

**L:** Of course.

**S:** And when you write of us, and you will write of us. May I ask one thing? Do so gently.

**L:** I'll try.

**S:** Religion is God. But only because man is faulty. All men, including this one.

(The new Pope is preparing to meet the public.)

**V:** He chose name the Luke?

**L:** There's been many Marks and Johns. Never a Luke.

**S:** He said he was a doctor.

**V:** It's quite a message that science and fate hold in one (6)?

**S:** The world is in need of both. Mr. Langdon, thank god for sending someone to protect this church.

**L:** I don't believe he sent me father.

**S:** Oh my son ... of course he did.

## Vocabulary

1. **in a way:** in a sense
2. **wear out of:** to make or become unusable through long or heavy use
3. **annihilate:** to destroy completely
4. **from within:** from the inside
5. **once and for all:** in a conclusive way, conclusively
6. **hold in one:** here it means to live peacefully with each other

(By Wang Yu)